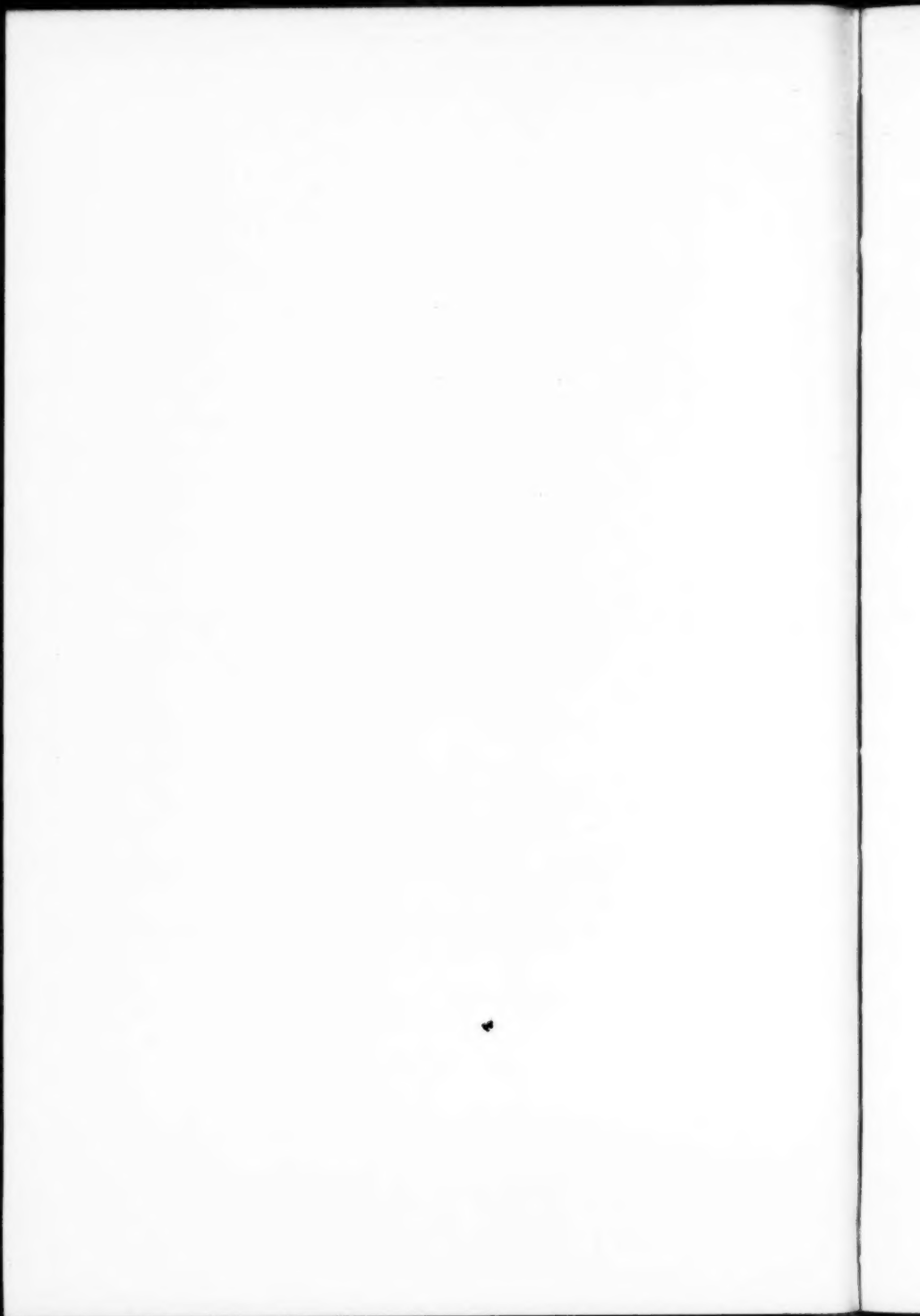


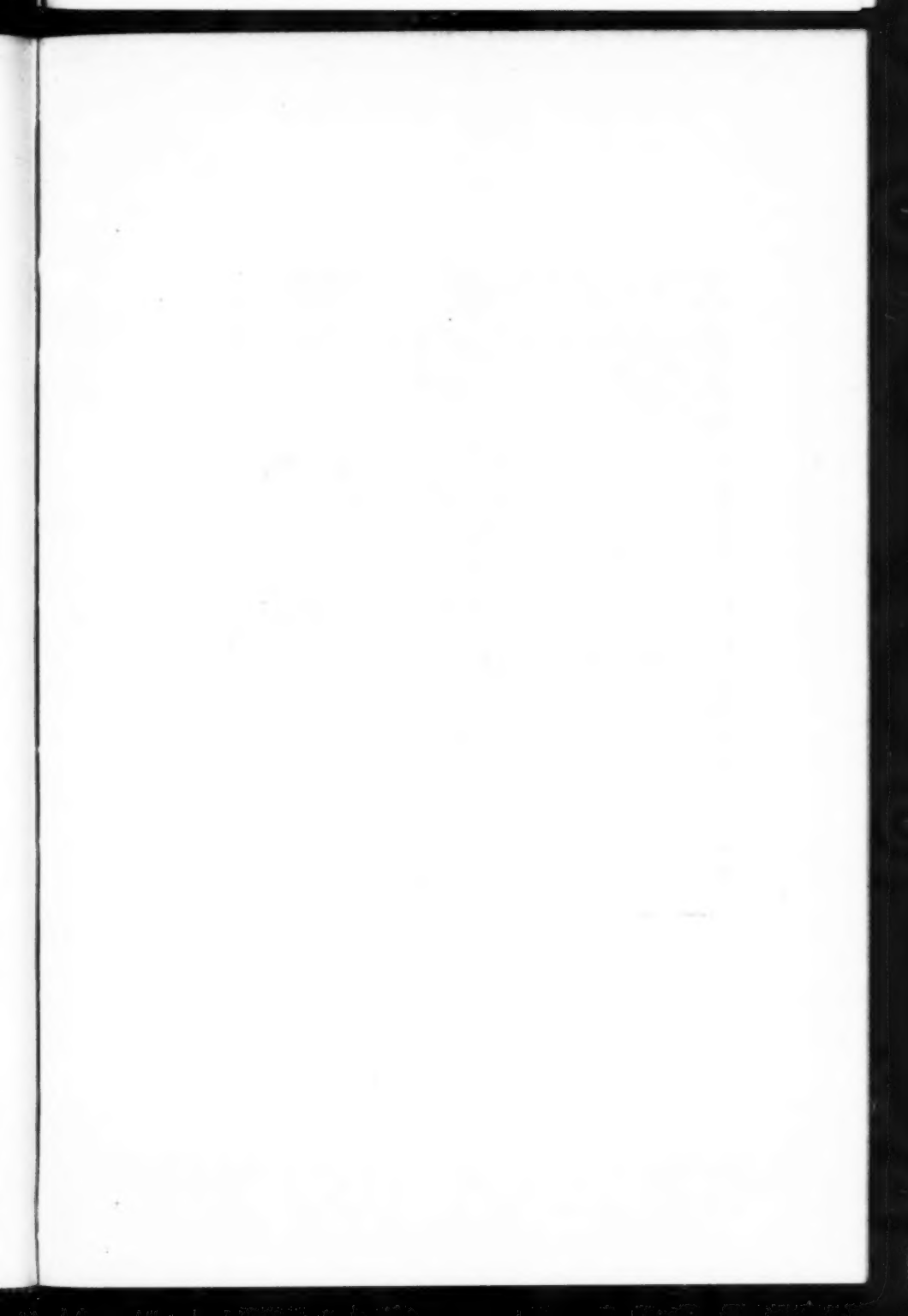
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OLIN DUNBAR WHEELER¹

The Minnesota Historical Society lost one of its most prominent and active members in the death of Olin Dunbar Wheeler on September 10, 1925. For twenty-two years he had been a member of the society and he had served on the executive council continuously since 1905.

Mr. Wheeler was born on May 1, 1852, at Mansfield, Ohio. His parents were the Reverend Alfred Wheeler and Lydia Curtis Wheeler, and his brother was Edward Jewett Wheeler, who for many years was editor of the *Literary Digest* and later held a similar position with *Current History*. The earlier part of Mr. Wheeler's education was received at Baldwin University in Berea, Ohio, and at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. He later entered Cornell University at Ithaca, New York, from which school he graduated with a degree in civil engineering in 1874. During the early seventies before receiving his degree Mr. Wheeler was employed in the First National Bank at Chattanooga, Tennessee, and later in a commercial enterprise in Erie, Pennsylvania, where his parents were living at the time.

After Mr. Wheeler was graduated from Cornell he joined Major John W. Powell's surveying expedition in the Rocky Mountain desert regions of the Southwest as topographer. This was in 1874, five years after Powell's famous exploration of the Grand Canyon. At this time Powell was engaged in an enterprise known as the Geographical and Geological Survey of the Rocky Mountain Region. In his report to the secretary of the interior for the years 1876 and 1877, he tells something about Mr. Wheeler's activities on this survey. For the field season of 1876 Powell divided his party into five branches, two of which made topographic surveys.

¹ Read at a meeting of the executive council of the Minnesota Historical Society in the Historical Building, St. Paul, October 11, 1926. *Ed.*

Of these, one was under the direction of John H. Renshawe, and his assistant was Mr. Wheeler. The work of this party "was confined to Southwestern Utah and Southeastern Nevada, one of the most rugged and barren sections in the Great Basin." It "extended over about 4,000 square miles," and Powell reports that "in all this area no considerable bodies of irrigable lands are found; probably not one-half of one per cent. possessing any value except for pasturage." In the season of 1877 Mr. Wheeler was the assistant of Professor A. H. Thompson, who had charge of the triangulation party of the survey. This group operated in the region west of the Green River in Utah. Rumors of the hostility of the Indians of this district caused Thompson to combine his party with one of the topographic parties, in order to have a stronger force in case of attack. His men, however, were not molested during the operations. In addition to establishing triangulation points, which were "marked by stone cairns and flagstaffs," Thompson's party "also determined the amount of water flowing in the larger streams of the region."²

Although Powell made no later general reports that have been published, his survey of the Rocky Mountain region continued until 1879. In that year, with two other extensive western surveys, it was discontinued, and the present United States Geological Survey was created. Mr. Wheeler remained with Powell until his survey came to an end.

It was while on this survey that Mr. Wheeler first came in contact with the West, which even as late as 1880 was largely a wilderness area inhabited only by small groups of wandering red-skinned tribesmen and the rapidly diminishing herds of buffalo and elk. Like Chittenden, Coues, and so many others who took an active part in the transition of the West,

² Powell, "Report on the Geographical and Geological Survey of the Rocky Mountain Region," in 45 Congress, 2 session, *House Executive Documents*, no. 1, p. 790, 798 (serial 1800).

he became interested in the history of the country; and he soon started on the work that was to occupy the greater part of his remaining years.

When the Powell survey was discontinued, Mr. Wheeler went to the city of Washington, where he obtained an appointment to work on the tenth United States census. During the summer months he acted as disbursing officer at Virginia City, Nevada, and during the winters he was engaged in special census work at the Capital. Here also he gained valuable experience as a special correspondent for various newspapers, writing on Congressional matters and public occurrences.

In 1882 Mr. Wheeler married Anna E. S. Burr of Mount Vernon, Ohio, and in the same year he settled in St. Paul, where he took charge of the office of Elias F. Drake, a prominent capitalist. This position Mr. Wheeler held until he went to the Northern Pacific Railway, in June, 1892, to take charge of its advertising. Here he remained for sixteen years, and after that he devoted his time to literary pursuits, specializing in history.

While he was with the Northern Pacific, Mr. Wheeler conceived and published a booklet called *Wonderland*. As an annual publication of the advertising department of that railroad, it first appeared in 1893 and continued until 1910. This booklet emphasized primarily the scenic glories of the West, the "wonderland" of America, but it also included references to important historical events that had transpired in the region. Incidentally, *Wonderland* was the first publication that systematically exploited the beauties of Yellowstone National Park.

The Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804-06 made a strong appeal to Mr. Wheeler and became his chief theme for historical research. In the course of his travels throughout the Northwest he covered practically the entire route traversed by Lewis and Clark nearly a century before. Just one hundred

years after that famous expedition started, Mr. Wheeler's great work, *The Trail of Lewis and Clark*, was published. It reveals a thorough familiarity with the journals not only of Lewis and Clark, but also of the other members of the party. Mr. Wheeler describes minutely the route of their journey and goes to some pains in showing the changes that have taken place since their time — how the sites of camps which they describe have been obliterated by the shifting channel of the Missouri, and how erosion has changed certain landmarks mentioned in the original journals. In other words he has oriented their route from the map of a hundred years ago and placed it with extreme thoroughness as to detail on a map of the present century. Yet with all this mass of facts and figures, the book is written in a popular style that makes excellent reading.

Mr. Wheeler never followed on the ground the course of Captain Lewis' separate journey on his return from the Pacific which took him in July, 1806, north from Great Falls into the upper Marias River country. An opportunity came to him to visit this region as a member of the Upper Missouri Historical Expedition in July, 1925, and for two months prior to that time he looked anxiously forward to it and hoped against hope that his failing strength would revive sufficiently to make the trip possible for him. In this he was disappointed. but an address he had prepared was read on the occasion of the dedication of a monument erected near the station of Meriwether on the Great Northern Railway to mark the farthest north point of the Lewis and Clark expedition. This was the last work from his pen. The writer saw him a few weeks later. He was very cheerful and his parting words expressed a wish and an intention to trace mile by mile the path of Captain Lewis on this northern loop. But within a month he had departed this earth for the great adventure into the beyond.

RALPH BUDD

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

THE SITE OF THE NORTHWEST COMPANY POST ON SANDY LAKE

The post of the Northwest Company on Sandy Lake in Aitkin County was the first enduring establishment of its type west of Fond du Lac on Lake Superior, and, from the date of its erection in 1794 to the close of the period of British occupancy of the region after the War of 1812, it was one of the most important fur-trading stations in the Northwest. The location on Sandy Lake was determined by its proximity to the route between Lake Superior and the Mississippi by way of the St. Louis and East Savanna rivers, the Savanna Portage, the West Savanna and Prairie rivers, Sandy Lake, and Sandy River. This route, which gave access to the great regions lying south, west, and north, had probably been used by the Indians for centuries before the advent of the white man.¹ It was by this route that Du Luth in the summer of 1679 "penetrated with his lively crew of *voyageurs* to the Sandy Lake country, being probably the first white trader upon the head-waters of the Mississippi."²

Here in 1794, William Morrison, according to his brother Allan, built "the original fort on Sandy Lake." Whether or not the fort built by Morrison is the one which became the Northwest Company post is unknown. He himself says that he went into the country "in opposition to the old N. W. Co.," and that he "opposed all the N. W. posts until 1805."³ He "found Bousquai at Sandy Lake." Charles Bousquet was the trader of the Northwest Company at Sandy Lake between

¹ Jacob V. Brower, "Prehistoric Man at the Headwaters of the Mississippi River," in *Minnesota Historical Collections*, 8: 238.

² Reuben G. Thwaites, "The Story of Chequamegon Bay," in *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, 13: 407.

³ Grace L. Nute, ed., "The Diary of Martin McLeod," *ante*, 4: 384 n.; Jacob V. Brower, *Itasca State Park*, 47 (*Minnesota Historical Collections*, vol. 11).

1794 and 1797.⁴ It is reasonably certain, however, that in the year 1794 the Northwest Company erected a permanent establishment here, which, probably from its form and strength, came to be known as "the fort."⁵

Zebulon M. Pike gives the first detailed description of the Northwest Company post on Sandy Lake. Having left the main body of his expedition encamped upon the banks of the Mississippi, Pike and one companion pushed on northeastward to the station on Sandy Lake. They evidently missed the old portage trail that led from the river to the lake, for Pike writes, "we traversed about two leagues of a wilderness . . . and at length struck the shore of Lake de Sable [*Sandy Lake*], over a branch of which our course lay. The snow having covered the trail made by the Frenchmen who had passed before with the rackets [*snowshoes*], I was fearful of losing ourselves on the lake. . . . Thinking that we could observe the bank of the other shore, we kept a straight course, some time after discovered lights, and on our arrival were not a little surprised to find a large stockade. The gate being open, we entered."⁶

Assuming that Pike had veered to the right of the portage trail, he must have struck the lake shore on the south side of Fisherman's Bay, which would form the "branch" mentioned by him. What is now Brown's Bay was probably at that time a small lake connected with the main lake only at high water. A map of Sandy Lake in 1860 shows such a small lake lying southeastward of another somewhat larger body of water, which is probably Bass Lake.⁷ Pike relates that the "fort

⁴ Jean Baptiste Perrault, "Narrative of the Travels and Adventures of a Merchant Voyageur," in *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections*, 37: 504, 570, 573, 574.

⁵ William W. Folwell, *A History of Minnesota*, 1: 68 (St. Paul, 1921).

⁶ Zebulon M. Pike, *Expeditions to the Headwaters of the Mississippi River*, 1: 138, 139, 281 (Coues edition, New York, 1895).

⁷ This is one of the numerous manuscript maps among the Alfred J. Hill Papers, in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.

at Sandy Lake is situated on the S. side, near the W. end." He "marks the site on his map, and gives it as $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. S. of the discharge of the lake into the short thoroughfare by which this reaches the Mississippi."⁸ George Henry Monk, Jr., writing in 1807, also locates the fort on the south side of the lake.⁹



MAP OF SANDY LAKE, SHOWING THE SITES OF THE POSTS OF THE NORTHWEST AND AMERICAN FUR COMPANIES

Coues's statement that "The N. W. Co. house where Pike was entertained stood on the W. shore of Sandy I., next to the Mississippi" is inaccurate. The editor of the Pike journals made a canoe voyage to the source of the Mississippi at

⁸ Pike, *Expeditions*, 1: 138 n., 281.

⁹ See *ante*, 5: 36.

the time that the first government dam was being constructed on Sandy River, and might, had he cared to do so, have definitely located the site of the Northwest Company post. He seems, however, to have depended for the location of this post solely upon Pike's original map, which is drawn to a very small scale and which in the nature of the case could not show the location with any degree of accuracy. Coues's own "Historico-Geographical Chart of the Upper Mississippi River" is drawn to a scale only a little larger than that of Pike, but is more accurate with regard to this location than is his statement.¹⁰

After the treaty of 1783, which ended the Revolutionary War and which endeavored to fix the boundary between the possessions of Great Britain and those of the United States in this region, and even after the withdrawal of the British garrison from Mackinac in 1796 as a result of Jay's treaty, the Northwest Company continued to occupy and exploit the upper Mississippi Valley. It was not until after the War of 1812 and the treaty of Ghent that the jurisdiction of the United States over the Sandy Lake region was definitely established. This treaty and the passage by Congress in 1816 of an act restricting the Indian trade to American citizens brought to an end the activities of the Northwest Company here. The company sold all its posts and outfits south of the Canadian boundary to John Jacob Astor, who had previously organized the American Fur Company.¹¹ In 1820, when the Cass expedition passed through Sandy Lake on its way to the headwaters of the Mississippi, the agents of the American Fur Company were found established in the old fort, which Schoolcraft describes in almost the exact words used by Pike. Between 1820 and 1832, when Schoolcraft for the second

¹⁰ Coues, in Pike, *Expeditions*, 1: 138 n., 283 n.; and maps accompanying volume 3 of the same work.

¹¹ Folwell, *Minnesota*, 1: 132, 133. See also Morrison's statement in Brower, *Itasca State Park*, 47.

time visited Sandy Lake, the American Fur Company's post was moved to a point just north of the mouth of Sandy River, where it flows into the Mississippi, later the location of the Libby post office.¹²

Edmund F. Ely, a Congregational missionary to the Indians, who was stationed at Sandy Lake in 1833 and 1834, refers several times in his journal to the old fort, at that time occupied by a man named Abbott, who had there a fur-trading station in competition with that of the American Fur Company at the mouth of Sandy River. Ely speaks of coming back from Abbott's post at "the old fort" to the station of the American Fur Company across the ice of the lake, and says, "a strong N. W. wind in my face rendered it [*walking*] quite tedious."¹³

In the year 1833, William Johnston, a representative of a rival of the American Fur Company, writes of a visit to Sandy Lake:

We arrived at the trading house of one of our clerks; it is pleasantly situated on a point of land extending some distance into the Lake. And the woods having been cleared, when it was occupied by the North West Company gives it the appearance of a White settlement; And it commands a view of the Savan river, and the one which empties into the Mississippi; which is necessary for a trading post, in order to watch the movements of the opposition and Indians.¹⁴

Johnston's reference to the site of the post is somewhat obscure. There is only one "point of land extending some distance into the lake" which commands a view of the river emptying from the lake into the Mississippi, and that is

¹² Henry R. Schoolcraft, *Narrative Journal of Travels through the Northwestern Regions of the United States to the Sources of the Mississippi River*, 218 (Albany, 1821); Coues, in Pike, *Expeditions*, 1:138 n.

¹³ Ely Diaries, October 12, November 22, December 7, December 24, 1833. The originals of these diaries are in the collection of the St. Louis County Historical Society at Duluth; copies are in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.

¹⁴ *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections*, 37:173.

Brown's Point. There is no point on the lake which commands a view of both the Savanna River and the Sandy River. Johnston's statement can be reconciled to local geography only by omitting the "and" following "Savan river" and assuming that by the "Savan" river he means Sandy river. Johnston nowhere mentions the name of the clerk of his company on Sandy Lake, but he was probably the Abbott mentioned by Ely.

No significant references have been found to the location of the old Northwest Company post between 1833 and 1894. In the latter year Brower wrote, "On the south shore of Sandy Lake are visible the old landmarks of the trading post and station of a hundred years ago which Lieut. Z. M. Pike so carefully described. . . . It is now an abandoned waste, soon to be obliterated farther by the flood from the government reservoir dam about to be completed."¹⁵

Within a comparatively few years following Abbott's occupation of the old fort, the site seems to have been abandoned entirely by the trading companies, and, according to local tradition, the few available maps, and the more reliable evidence of findings all along the north shore of Brown's Point, the old post and its surrounding clearing became again the site of an Indian village.¹⁶ The Hill Papers contain a map

¹⁵ Brower, in *Minnesota Historical Collections*, 8:238. The first government dam on Sandy Lake was in the process of construction at the time that Brower wrote. As a matter of fact, neither this dam nor the second dam, which is now standing, served to "obliterate" the site of the old fort, as it lies entirely above the high water mark. At times of high water in the Mississippi, Sandy River sometimes flowed back into the lake, causing great floods which covered the country for many miles around. Ordinarily, however, it would seem that the level of water in the lake was considerably lower than at present. See Newton H. Winchell and Warren Upham, *The Geology of Minnesota*, 54 (Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota, *Final Report*, vol. 1 — Minneapolis, 1881).

¹⁶ Brown's Point had evidently been occupied by a Chippewa village at a much earlier date. Warren's detailed account of the battle of Sandy Lake between the Chippewa and the invading Sioux clearly indicates that

drawn in 1886 which shows the location of the Northwest Company's post on Sandy Lake. It is based upon data furnished by Ely from a map drawn for him on the ground by the Sandy Lake Indians in 1860. There are two obvious historical errors on this map, one of which Hill has noted and corrected. The station at the mouth of Sandy River is labeled "Site of old N. W. Fur Co.'s post or Aitkin's trading post in 1832," whereas there is no evidence that the Northwest Company ever had a post on this spot. Aitken's post was that of the American Fur Company, occupied after the old fort on the south shore was abandoned by the company. About halfway up the point north of Fisherman's Bay on the same map is a spot marked, "Fort according to E. F. Ely here (1860) but evidently wrong!" Hill has corrected the error in the location of the Northwest Company post by marking a location on what is now called Brown's Point with the notation, "Suppositious site of fort." This map also locates an "Indian village in 1860" near the "suppositious site" of the fort. From the evidence of this map it might be thought that Ely was unaware that the site of Abbott's post was the same as that of the original Northwest Company station of 1794. It is more probable, however, that his indication of the location of the post was inaccurate or was misunderstood by Hill. A small map drawn by Lieutenant James Allen, a member of the Schoolcraft expedition of 1832, confirms the locations of the two posts. Allen marks the post at the mouth of Sandy River, "Trading H of A. F. Co." and that on Brown's Point, "Old Trading House."¹⁷

this point was the site of that memorable encounter. See William W. Warren, "History of the Ojibways," in *Minnesota Historical Collections*, 5: 177, 225-234. At the present time, rice holes dot almost the entire central and eastern portions of the point. Numerous graves may be located by rectangular depressions on the ridges at the western end. Excavations for cabin sites near-by have opened up many of these with the usual revelation of Indian relics.

¹⁷ Allen's map appears with his report in *American State Papers: Military Affairs*, 5: 313.

In 1900 the point on which the Northwest Company post was situated was purchased by Thomas Edward Brown, according to his daughter, Mrs. Jessie Brown Gleaves. His log

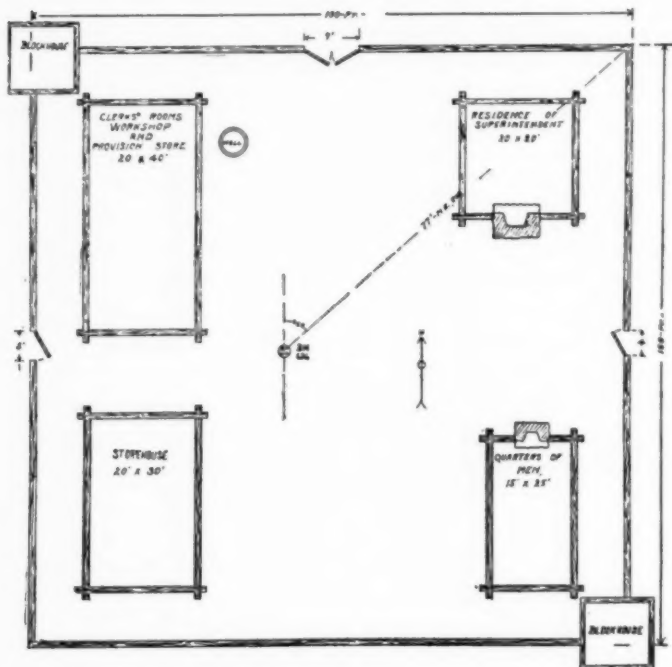


DIAGRAM OF THE STOCKADE AND POST OF THE NORTHWEST COMPANY ON SANDY LAKE

[Drawn from the description of Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike, by W. P. Ingersoll. The buildings inside of the stockade were probably located somewhat closer to the walls than is indicated on this diagram. The two cellars completely excavated were located underneath and south of the residence of the superintendent. The fireplace may have been on the east rather than on the south of this building. The remains of stockade posts were found at the northeast corner and extending westward and southward from this point. Remains of corner sills at the northwest angle of this building were found together with other remains of sills extending south and east. Excavation beneath the storehouse in the southwest corner of the stockade area showed the presence of a filled-in cellar. The remains of a stoned-up well were found at the location indicated on the diagram.]

cabin stood there until four years ago. Before Brown's death the north shore of the point was subdivided into lots, which have since been sold for cabin sites. Today it has the appearance of the usual tourist resort. Mr. William P. Ingersoll, at present a resident on the point, says that Mr. Norbert Ohrenberg, who worked for Brown while he was clearing his land for cultivation, stated that innumerable evidences of Indian occupancy were turned up by the plow. Stone hammers, tomahawks, and other indestructible articles were heaped up and hauled away, while bones and all combustible materials were piled up and burned. Stone walls or foundations were also said by Mr. Ohrenberg to have been found, but the locations of these have been forgotten.

The task, therefore, of determining with any degree of accuracy the location of the old Northwest Company post was one for which exact data were not available. The descriptions of the fort by Pike and Schoolcraft were the most definite and helpful. The Ely Diary and the Hill maps served to confirm the Pike data. Fortunately one of the Hill maps shows the location of the "suppositious site" of the fort with reference to the government survey, marking it on the mainland southwest of the northwest corner of section 1, township 49 north, range 24 west, which description locates the fort on Brown's Point beyond the possibility of question.

Pike says that the fort consisted of "a stockade 100 feet square, with bastions [*blockhouses*] at the S. E. and N. W. angles, pierced for small-arms." Pike's description continues:

The pickets are squared on the outside, round within, about one foot diameter, and 13 feet above ground. There are three gates: the principal one fronts the lake on the N., and is 10 x 9 feet; the one on the W. 6 x 4 feet; and the one on the E. 6 x 5 feet. As you enter by the main gate you have on the left a building of one story, 20 feet square, the residence of the superintendent. Opposite this house on the left of the E. gate, is a house 25 x 15 feet, the quarters of the men. On entering the W. gate you find the

storehouse on the right, 30 x 20 feet, and on your left a building 40 x 20 feet, which contains rooms for clerks, a workshop, and provision store.

On the W. and N. W. is a picketed inclosure of about four acres, in which last year they raised 400 bushels of Irish potatoes, cultivating no other vegetables. In this inclosure is a very ingeniously constructed vault to contain potatoes, and which likewise has secret apartments to conceal liquors, dry goods, etc.¹⁸

To this description, Schoolcraft adds no significant details other than that the pickets of the main stockade were of pitch pine, and were "pinned together with stout plates of the same wood."¹⁹

The fact that several depressions, much larger than those marking the old Indian rice holes and evidently showing the locations of old cellars, were still visible on lots 16 and 17 of the Sandy Lake Beach subdivision on Brown's Point, led the investigators to begin excavations on this site under Mr. Ingersoll's direction in August, 1926. The first spadeful of earth turned up yielded an Indian medicine man's carved "swallowing-bone," thus encouraging further search. Within a few minutes unmistakable evidences of white man's work were uncovered in the form of rotting cedar sills and the shredded remnants of vertical posts, located at varying intervals and covered by from fourteen to eighteen inches of sand, char, and soil. Further excavations at different places near-by showed without exception the presence of a well-defined stratum of charred wood, as though a comparatively large conflagration had at some time taken place. This layer of char lies at a depth of from twelve to fifteen inches below the present irregular surface.

The place at which the first excavations were made is about thirty feet south of the beginning of the slope leading to the edge of the lake. The finding of remains of vertical posts at intervals on lines running west and south and the presence

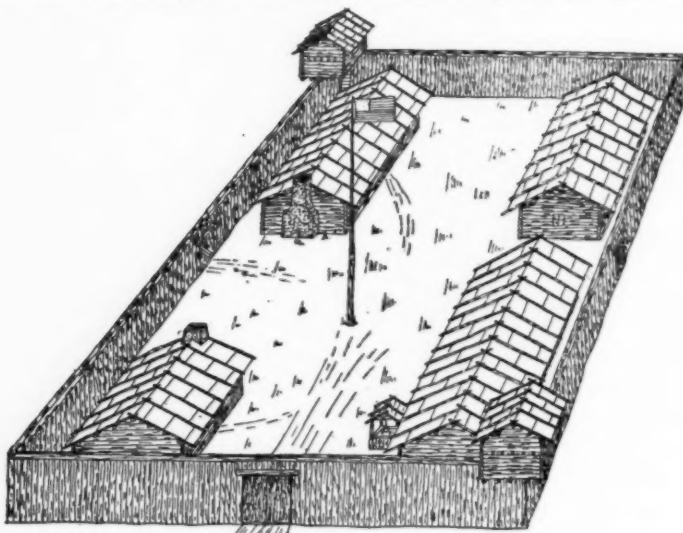
¹⁸ Pike, *Expeditions*, 1: 281.

¹⁹ Schoolcraft, *Narrative Journal*, 218.

within the angle formed by these lines of a large depression make it seem possible that this was the northeast corner of the old stockade. In this case the depression may be what is left of a cellar beneath the superintendent's residence. From this northeast corner southward for some distance in extension of the line on which remains of vertical posts were found there is a ridge of earth one and one-half to two feet in height, such as might have accumulated along the east line of the stockade. Approximately one hundred feet to the west a similar ridge of earth runs southward parallel to the first, and this may be the line of the west side of the stockade. Some thirty feet to the east of this west ridge, underneath a cabin belonging to Mr. Enoch Johnson of Palisade, were found, during the process of the erection of the cabin by Mr. Ingersoll, the remains of what had evidently been a stoned-up well. The location of this well within the putative outlines of the stockade would place it east of the workshop and provision store mentioned by Pike. Immediately back of the Johnson cabin is another relatively large depression, possibly the site of a cellar underneath the storehouse. Excavation here to a depth of three or four feet showed a sandy loam which had plainly been deposited at a comparatively late date and the omnipresent layer of char. Nothing else was found that was significant.

The site of the larger depression in the northeast corner was excavated with exceeding care and for its entire extent with very satisfactory results. The approximate dimensions of the depression were fifteen by thirty feet, the longer dimension extending north and south. A low ridge of earth was to be seen running directly across the depression about twelve feet from the northern end. The assumption that this ridge marked a cross wall in the cellar or a partition between two cellars was confirmed by the excavations, as beneath it were found in their original position horizontal cedar poles from four to six inches in diameter laid up to form a wall.

The poles were, however, so rotten that in spite of the greatest care they crumbled away or caved in after a few minutes' exposure to the air. At several places along the side walls of the cellars, fragmentary remains of similar poles were found, but nowhere else in such quantity or in such regular position. Several of the pieces of timber were partially charred by fire.



IDEAL SKETCH. OF THE NORTHWEST COMPANY POST ON SANDY LAKE, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

[Drawn from the description of Lieutenant Pike, by W. P. Ingersoll.]

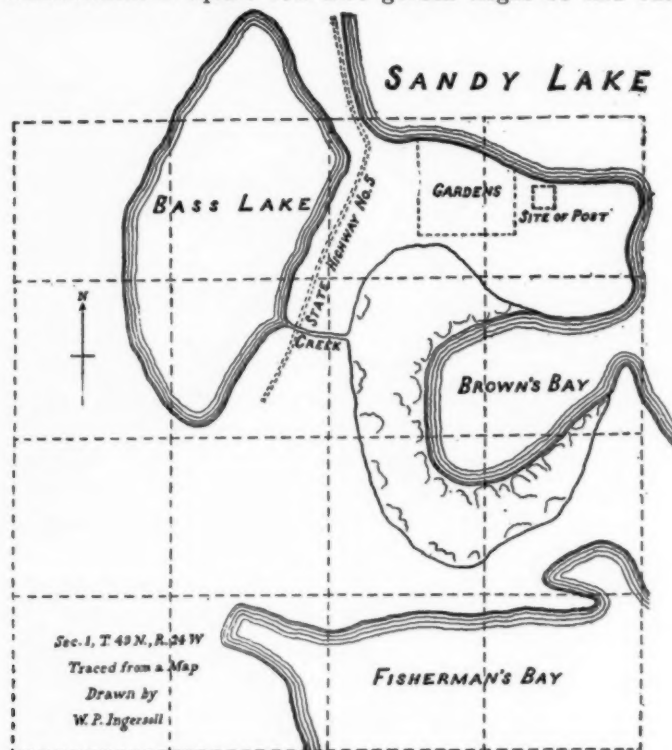
A vertical cross section of the excavation in the smaller cellar showed a stratum of sandy loam at the surface underlaid successively by layers of char, ash, and sand, intermingled with small boulders and bits of baked clay, some of the latter showing still the impression of the stones which they had joined. Underneath these was a stratum of fish scale from two to four inches in thickness covering the entire area of the compartment; and at the bottom, resting upon the undisturbed

native blue clay, was a layer of miscellaneous debris of neither common composition nor consistency. Excavation to the outer walls of undisturbed sand and clay showed that the original dimensions of the two compartments had been twelve by ten feet and twelve by twenty-four feet, respectively, with a common depth beneath the present surface of approximately four feet.

Every shovelful of earth was examined as it was removed, with the result of the discovery of gunflints, the trigger guard and a part of the breechblock of an old flintlock gun, a light ax of the type locally known as the "Hudson Bay" ax, a handmade two-edged knife or dagger, a handmade metal lock, an old metal door latch, many pieces of heavy old glass bottles and demijohns, pieces of figured porcelain dishes, bits of mortar and melted glass, and many scattered remnants of charred and rotted timbers, all plainly evidences of the white man's occupancy of the site many years ago. Few relics of Indian origin were found during this excavation, although at other places within the limits of the supposed area of the stockade were discovered a carved "swallowing-bone," a hollow bone ornament, a copper bracelet, hand-carved beads, and many pieces of the blue and green figured porcelain of the trade patterns common in this region. The Indian relics were generally found just beneath the sod, while the evidences of white man's occupancy were found buried often two feet or more beneath the surface. No pottery remains whatsoever were found, although fragments of potsherds are to be found in quantities elsewhere on the islands of Sandy Lake and the mainland. The failure to find any pottery here would seem to indicate that the Indian occupancy of which these relics are evidence occurred at a time subsequent to that of the white traders.

About midway of the line which marks the beginning of the slope from the north side of the site to the present shore line of the lake, there are traces of what may well be the re-

mains of a gradual approach to the main gate of the stockade. The site lies about a mile and a quarter south and a little east of the entrance of the lake into Sandy River. To the west lies a comparatively level tract of land upon which by actual measurement a square four-acre garden might be laid out.



SITE OF THE NORTHWEST COMPANY POST AND GARDENS ON
SANDY LAKE

Beyond this level tract rises a low ridge composed of boulders and coarse gravel, succeeded in turn by a little valley and a higher and heavily wooded ridge, an extension of those which border the western shore of the lake.

The conclusion that these findings serve to determine the site of the old fort has been reached only after the most careful consideration of all the available data and of various conflicting local traditions with regard to the location. No other place on Brown's Point satisfies all conditions set up by the descriptions of Pike, Schoolcraft, and Johnston. This site does.

It would seem probable that, after the final abandonment of the fort, it was burned, the ashes and charred remains of the conflagration forming the stratum of ash and char underlying the whole area. The cellars were gradually filled with soil washings and debris, and soon became mere depressions. Timbers and lumber that escaped destruction and remained exposed were doubtless used for firewood. The Indians re-occupied the point, erected their tepees, dug their rice holes, buried their dead, and used the clearing for their gardens, thus giving to this area the name "Indian Gardens" by which it was known to the early settlers. Second-growth timber sprang up, and the site became, with the gradual decay and removal of the Indian population, the "abandoned waste" of which Brower wrote in 1894.

A temporary marker will be placed upon the site, and if, after further study and investigation, the conclusions of the present investigators are confirmed by adequate authority, a permanent monument should be erected to mark one of the most interesting and significant spots in all the great Northwest.

IRVING HARLOW HART

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CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

SIDELIGHTS ON THE SIBLEY EXPEDITION FROM THE DIARY OF A PRIVATE¹

Our Minnesota historians have spent too much time on the local aspects of the Sioux War of 1862 and have placed too little emphasis upon its national significance. From the first newspaper account through the most recently published volume, relatively too much space has been given to the immediate causes of the outbreak, to the revolting atrocities perpetrated, and to the campaigns against and the final defeat of the Sioux. The interpretation of the causes and results of this Indian war from a national viewpoint, although quite obvious in general, has not been sufficiently emphasized. Dr. Wilson P. Shortridge in his book on Sibley states that "the most serious Indian massacre in American History took place in the valley of the Minnesota river in the summer of 1862. The uprising Sioux in their last stand against the white men for possession of the soil of Minnesota differed from other conflicts on the frontier chiefly in the area involved and the number of victims slain. Similar causes had produced similar conflicts over and over again as the pressure of population pushed the Indians farther and farther towards the setting sun."² This historian has come nearer to grasping the larger meaning of the subject than most writers, but he, too, strangely neglects to show the effects of this "national war" on frontier development. He does note incidentally in this general opening statement that the real cause of the struggle was the pressure of white population, but in his enumeration of causes he fails to list it.

¹ Read at the state historical convention under the auspices of the Minnesota Historical Society at Mankato on June 17, 1926. Ed.

² Wilson P. Shortridge, *The Transition of a Typical Frontier with Illustrations from the Life of Henry Hastings Sibley*, 146 (Menasha, Wisconsin, 1922).

The outstanding cause for and the most important outcome of the defeat of the Sioux in the Northwest was the opening up of vast new lands for settlement, not only in Minnesota but in the Dakota territory. The area gained by Minnesota in 1862 was not great — only the strip ten miles wide and about a hundred and fifty miles long on the south bank of the Minnesota River — but it was the final acquisition. In the preceding decade the federal government had extinguished the Indian title to all the land in southern Minnesota with the exception of this reservation and a smaller one near Mankato occupied by the Winnebago. During the fifties hundreds of people squatted in southwestern Minnesota. Dr. Folwell says that "the Sioux had hardly got settled before the white man appeared with his whiskey jug and began taking up preëmptions on the neighboring lands."³ It was in 1862, after several abortive attempts, that the West forced the enactment of the homestead law, and the rush of population into the Northwest on a scale unprecedented in the history of the country began. "The public lands were entered upon the last great period of their existence."⁴ Free land and the unrestricted immigration policy of the United States brought to southwestern Minnesota the German, the Welshman, and the Scandinavian, whose industry enriched the country and the government. If one would fully understand the Sioux War and its consequences he must study the national public land system, the Indian policy, the federal policy of unrestricted immigration, and finally frontier settlement in the Northwest during the decades of the forties, fifties, and sixties.

After the Sioux revolt had been crushed in 1862, there still remained the task of pursuing and punishing those Indians who had fled into the Dakota territory. The people of Min-

³ William W. Folwell, *Minnesota, The North Star State*, 169 (*American Commonwealths* series — Boston, 1908).

⁴ Frederic L. Paxson, *History of the American Frontier, 1763-1893*, 480 (Boston, 1924).

nesota felt that no expense or effort should be spared to mete out heavy justice to the fleeing marauders. The war department organized two expeditions for this purpose in the winter of 1863, one under Henry Hastings Sibley and the other under Alfred Sully. The Sibley column was instructed to proceed up the Minnesota Valley and to cross over to Devil's Lake, the objective of both forces. Sully was to go by way of the Missouri River.

Henry J. Hagadorn, the writer of the diary from which the following account is principally drawn, was a private in the ranks of the Sibley expedition and had seen service in the previous year's fighting.⁵ The diary runs from January 11 to August 31, 1863; and while dealing with the affairs of the expeditionary force, comprises more of a personal record than a comprehensive outline of the events that occurred during the march. Most of the entries are of a limited nature, often touching only upon such things as the weather and the writer's general state of health. Despite this fact, however, it is possible to gather from this record some very pertinent information about the expedition and the country that it traversed, much of which is not found in the ordinary sources.

The country through which the troops passed included some of the most fertile land in the Northwest. This fact was not lost upon Hagadorn and he frequently mentions the beauties and richness of the territory. When in the neighborhood of the lower Sioux agency on May 1, he remarks that "the Country through which we have marched is the finest in the State for farming and Grazing and the only objection any man can make to it is the scarcity of Timber back from the River: but the land is beautiful rolling Pararie with Meadow and water in abundance and the soil is excelent." Farther on while at Camp Sheardown near the Sheyenne River on July 14 he is again struck by the unusual attractiveness of the land

⁵ A copy of the Hagadorn Diary is in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.

about him. He compares it with the East and his native state, New York, but he says that none of the beauties of the East "will compare with this spot so wild and uninhabited and so far from civilization." After the command returned from Dakota Territory and was near Sauk Center, the author with much enthusiasm declares that the country was "as delightful a spot as the sun ever shone upon, or man ever trod." He continues, "Surpassingly beautiful prairie, not level enough to be monotonous—a smooth, green sward as far as the eye can reach. A beautiful lake with gravelly bottom and beach, and fine grove. Imagination could not paint anything more beautiful in nature. The touch of art will make it nearly perfect. These broad acres will at some not far distant day be peopled and improved."⁶

The army, however, was not constantly treated to the best in nature. The men suffered frequently from inclement weather, and often were harassed by severe rain and wind storms. On one or two occasions the dryness of the vicinity through which they were traveling caused suffering among the soldiers. The heat on a few days was so intense that marching was prohibited temporarily. In general, however, marching conditions were good. The accounts of frequent rain storms given by Hagadorn directly contradict the usual story of "prairies parched with excessive drouth."

Transportation conditions in Minnesota at this time are the subject of much comment in the diary. Army supplies were carried overland by transport teams, and the fact that the roads were usually good is mentioned; trouble was encountered only in crossing swamps and in fording streams. Both mule and horse teams were used in transporting supplies by land. Sometimes as many as fifty to seventy wagons moved in a single body carrying commissary stores to the various camps.

⁶ Hagadorn to his wife, August 29, 1863. The letter is in the possession of a descendant of Hagadorn.

That steamboats ran on the Minnesota with a fair degree of regularity is clearly shown, for as many as seven landings are recorded by Hagadorn while he was quartered at Camp Pope. The steamers "Ariel" and "Stella Whipple" are most frequently listed in the transportation of commissary goods and recruits, although the "Jeanette Roberts," the "Pomeroy," the "Eolian," and the "Favorite" also were used in military operations. Thomas Hughes in his "History of Steamboating on the Minnesota River" states that "the summer of 1863 was exceptionally dry, and though boats were able in May to ascend to Camp Pope, twenty-five miles above Fort Ridgely, by the middle of June the river had fallen so that all steamboat traffic above the rapids was suspended."⁷

In spite of the wild and unsettled nature of the country, mail service was unusually regular. Reception of mail from home was always a cause for gladness. The presence of newspapers and letters undoubtedly established a higher type of morale among the men. While the army followed the river mail was received by steamer, but later on it was brought overland by scouts. It is interesting to note that while the expedition was campaigning in the Dakota region letters and newspapers were delivered not only through Fort Abercrombie but also from Pembina. Just why mail addressed from St. Paul should have been sent by way of Pembina is a matter for conjecture.

Life in the army is fairly well illustrated by Hagadorn's narrative. The soldiers on the expedition were raw and not well trained. Discipline appears to have been more or less easy compared with that of the modern day, however. Cases of punishment are rarely recorded. "For disobedience of Orders," Hagadorn writes on May 30, "one poor Soldier is recieveing punishment by carrying Forty Five lbs of Brick in his Knappsack on his back in front of Head quarters for Three hours in succession where he is seen by every body." At

⁷ *Minnesota Historical Collections*, 10: 152 (part 1).

Camp Atchison, on July 18, a man was shot by a lieutenant. Various stories concerning the cause were circulated but Hagadorn merely writes, "I have not heard the particulars of the Affair." This was the first instance of bloodshed on the expedition.

The soldiers appear to have been generally content. Complaints were expressed only under extremely unfavorable conditions, such as when the men were on the trail upwards of twenty-four hours, practically without food, water, or rest. At Camp McPhail, on June 21, the command was given that no soldier "leave the ranks for water while on the march." Hagadorn's entry for the following day illustrates the reaction to this restriction:

We now began to see what hard ships we have to endure before we get to Devils Lake and back to civilization again but the worst of all so far was the enforcing of the Order read last evening and we marched 16 miles through a hot sun and dust without one drop of water to cool our parched throats when it was so handy to get that we were marched through the River but not allowed to fill our Canteens and one poor fellow a searaget fell upon the ground exhausted and it was [only] by the best of care that his life was saved: The boys declare that they will get water at every Opportunity hereafter let come what will it will be hard enough for us if allowed all the comforts possible through this barren Country.

Again there is evidence of grumbling when Hagadorn writes on August 24 that "there was many curses heaped upon the Maj for the 3 hours battelion drill on double quick this P.M."

Perhaps the most serious difficulty within the ranks occurred at Camp Pope on June 3, when trouble developed "between the Cavelry and the Teamsters which caused the Col[onel] Com[manding] to call out the troops to still them." According to Hagadorn, the teamsters, who numbered about four hundred, were "sothern men," and after this disturbance it was necessary that they be "closely watched as they have already made their threats that they would kill every Union

man" with the party. Later Hagadorn states that the teamsters were both "black and white."

These three instances are about the only cases of real discontent recorded in the journal. Only three deserters are mentioned by the diarist. These men were readily caught but as readily escaped a second time.

One of the chief diversions of the soldiers on the campaign seems to have been playing horseshoes. A ludicrous instance of what Hagadorn brands as army depravity may be noted in this connection. On August 9 he writes:

A Man by the name of Stanbuck of C E 10 reg died in the Hospital to day at noon and was burried this afternoon I must confess that I have seen but little of the wickedness and depravity of Man untill I joined the Army. it is so visible to day that I cannot let it pass unnoticed this poor soldier died in the Hospital Tent and but A few feet from it there is A gang of men pitching Horse Shoes and Swearing so loud that they can be heard all through the Camp but no one tries to stop them and they continue their game and do not stop even when the Corps is brought out in the Coffin and taken to its last resting place and the Chaplin passes them time after time without a word of advice. As wicked as I am these scenes strikes to my heart to see such wickedness especialy on the Sabath and the Officers share largely in them.

Despite the serious nature of the Indian expedition the Sibley troops do not appear to have been drilled effectively. Hagadorn remarks on May 25 that he has "drilled but 2 hours this season," and the season was advanced four months. Inspection was held every Sunday morning and this appears to have been the only regular drill. Dress parades were infrequent.

The hardships and vicissitudes experienced were not out of the ordinary. A scarcity of food for several days, the lack of medicine in times of sickness, and rain and dust storms constituted the chief troubles. From Mankato to Camp Pope, a march which lasted from April 28 to May 2 — five days — the men subsisted mainly on hard mouldy bread. Upon reach-

ing Camp Pope, however, the food increased in quantity and was better in quality. In Dakota Territory geese, ducks, deer, and buffalo were secured in sufficient quantities.

Hagadorn notes the lack of medicine on several occasions. In his many attacks of fever, he sought the surgeon for relief in vain. The doctor scarcely ever had any medicine. On the return trip to St. Paul seven soldiers were reported to have died of fever and Hagadorn asserts that this was due to lack of medicine.

Keen interest in the progress of the war in the South is reflected throughout the journal. Reports of battles were being continually received, but many times the first news was erroneous. For instance the battle of Fredericksburg, fought on December 13, 1862, was reported a victory for the Union forces on May 9, 1863; Richmond surrendered in 1863; and the fall of Vicksburg was celebrated on May 30, a month before it occurred. The false news of the triumph of Burnside at Fredericksburg was the occasion for a great jubilee. "Cheer after cheer" was given "for the brave Soldiers and their Glorious victory" and "the 12 pds Cannon was fired 3 times in honor of the victory at the South." When the facts of the battle became known on May 11 the difference in spirit was marked. The news caused sadness in the ranks and gave rise to a lengthy discourse on the part of Hagadorn about the heads of the national government and the incompetence of the Union generals. He writes:

For as we look at the Glorious Stars and stripes as they wave proudly over the Head Quarters here the heart is feint to hear once more of our defeat in its defense Alas: Alas: my Country where is thy boasted Liberty. yet we are told that our Army and our Generals are not discouraged but still hope to triumph. but why this defeat to the Army of the Raparhanoc is our General incompet[ent] if so why was it not discovered untill it is too late to avert this most inglorious retreat it is the heads of the Government that will have to answer this at some future day and may god have mercy on them if they fail to answer it.

Again when the news of the fall of the rebel capital was read from the *St. Paul Press* on May 13, "the air resounded with shouts of joy" and again the "12 Lbs Canon burst forth it[s] fire and smoke."

The Sibley expedition was not altogether successful. It encountered but few Indians and fought but two battles, only part of the army taking part in these. False reports of Indians were frequent and these resulted in many wild-goose chases. On one occasion eleven Indians caused a detachment of cavalry to return to camp when the men thought that the Indians were reinforced by a hundred more. It was later shown that the total number of Indians was eleven and the cavalry had been scared away by a delusion.

Another subject of special interest touched upon in the diary is the scalping of Indians. In many of the Indian wars, the whites have committed this barbarous act. The Sibley command was no exception. Hagadorn only alludes to the subject, but L. W. Collins, a captain in the same command, says:

It was currently reported that the colonel commanding the cavalry told his men that he had a good deal rather see the scalps than to hear men talk — and probably lie — about the sure enough death after the fight. He also, it is said, told the men in the same connection that the scalp should be large enough to prevent all suspicion that the head of one Indian had been called upon to perform double duty. But no matter just how the colonel saw fit to put his views, scalps were on exhibition for several days after the skirmishes.⁸

On August 12 the Sibley expedition started its return trip. The Hagadorn journal is abruptly terminated at Camp Jones, about twelve miles from Sauk Center, on August 31.

In conclusion, it might be said that the conditions and events revealed in the diary are noteworthy. In general the Indians proved elusive; the army appears to have been poorly condi-

⁸ L. W. Collins, *The Expedition Against the Sioux Indians in 1863, Under Gen. Henry H. Sibley*, 19 (St. Cloud, 1895).

tioned, the discipline was lax, the food was sometimes poor, and medicines were lacking. This is not to be wondered at, however, when it is considered that the Civil War was raging and the Union forces up until July were encountering defeat after defeat.

JOHN PERRY PRITCHETT

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
KINGSTON, CANADA

MINNESOTA AS SEEN BY TRAVELERS

A PENNSYLVANIAN VISITS THE WEST IN 1855 ¹

In the fifties a general interest in impressions of the West was prevalent in the eastern part of the United States and letters from venturesome friends or relatives who traveled westward claimed much attention. One can sense without difficulty the eagerness with which the following letter was read by the Pennsylvania friends of the writer; and a vivid picture of a frontier town it must have left on the minds of all who heard it. Nothing further is known of the writer. The letter was found with some letters addressed to Samuel W. Sharp in the papers of Curtis H. Pettit, a pioneer resident of Minneapolis.² Presumably this Sharp was the man of that name mentioned in the letter.

WILLIAM K. MCFARLANE TO IRVINE, STOUGH, *et al.*, May 25, 1855

[Pettit Papers — A. L. S.]

FALLS OF ST ANTHONY May 25th 1855

MESS^{rs} IRVINE, STOUGH, BRICKER, SHARP, MCKENNEY,

DILLER, DUNLAP, WOODBURY, &C

ESTEEMED FRIENDS

(Sketches of Minnasota by an Emigrant)

On a beautiful Sabbath morning we rounded the bend immediately below St Paul and the city burst upon our view the white steeples of the churches towering aloft far above the surrounding Houses adds greatly to the appearance of the place after firing our swivel as steamboats Generaly do we rounded to and went ashore I have been in some *few towns* in my journey through life but a more motley Crowd than stood on the landing at St Paul I

¹ This document, together with the introductory note, has been supplied by Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts for the Minnesota Historical Society. *Ed.*

² See *post*, p. 360.

have never saw in any town of its size Irishmen, Dutch, Californians, niggers omnibus drivers, Boatmen, speculators Dandys, Gamblers Winnabages & Sioux Indians half Breed, Frenchmen, & Hosts of others too numerous to minten as we passed up to the American house (by the way kept about the same as the Franklin in Phi[adelphi]a) the Bells were ringing for divine servic and the streets were thronged with as well dressed people as You would see in any of our large towns the fact is there are numbers here from New York when we landed at the American I saw one specimen of this Class Genus homo who was looking at the scenery through a large opera Glass and remarked to a bystander that it was *demed Foine* but wild.

Took a wash and went with some acquaint[a]nc[e]s to Episcopical Church on our way passed the first Church (A Catholic one) erected in St Paul. 7 years ago St Paul was a little Hamlet without any present prospect of being any more in future than an ordinary Country town her buisness was then considered large at \$131,000 now the buisness for last year may be summed up at \$6,000,000 Four Daily & Weekly papers are published here and have a large Circulation when standing on the Bluffs back of Town I could not help contrasting the present condition with what it was 10 years ago then the camping ground of Indians now covered with Handsome residences that would do credit to Phia Gov Ramsey has a handsome one and can live retired as he has made his pile front lots are held at \$100 pr foot in the principal street prices that I think cannot be sustained at least I have found places of more Healthy grothe where a person can invest money to a better advantage

After looking around and becomeing somewhat acquainted in St Paul I left for St Anthony one of the most romantick places on the Missippi nature has done for this place what she has not done for many others viz the river here falls over the rocks some 20 ft and on both sides for 1½ miles leaves a butiful plain for building a city the Lumber trade of St Anthony alone was \$1,000,000 last year, and it is yet in its infancy but suffice it to say that after traveling over a considerable portion of Minnasota I came back & purchased a Property within ⅓ of Mile of Coperate limits of the City and if any of you ever visit the Falls of St

Anthony your Friend Mc will be on hands to Welcome you I was offered in the evening \$500 for my bargain but dec[li]ned to take it I would just mention to my Friends Irvine & Stough that the[y] brew splendid Ale one mile from my place and I occasi[o]naly indulge I shall give you a description of the town at some future time

A word to persons intending to settle here now I do not pretend to advise any one about Coming west but would say to those intending to settle in Minnasota that from actual observation I would Cons[i]der that the best portion of the Teritory lay south of the Mississippi along the St Peters and bordering on sothron Iowa there is as handsome land as ever the sun shone upon south of the St Peters and I intend to enter some before going home a great part of that County is settled by Pennsylvanians the Northern part of the Country is more sandy and abounds in small Lakes I have some property on a lake that is filled with splendid fish the Country through the Lakes generally is what is called oak openings and soil a dark sandy Loam I love Minnasota for its clear springs of water better is not to be had on the banks of Big spring. 4 Miles from St Anthony Lays 3 Lakes Called Crystal Lake, Lake Harriet & Lake of the Woods if there is any thing more butiful than to stand on the shores of any of these Lakes and watch the setting sun the waves running on the pebly shore with a faint murm[ur] which almost lulls a person to sleep —

The glorious heaven the Lake so blue, the forests dark and still, your friend has not seen it. by next year their banks will be studded with Farms already unimproved Land near there is held at \$10 pr A[cre] which in 6 mo. will prob. bring \$15 Gentlemen you can form no Conception of the way property advances This country as minnasota is but 5 years old in Two more she will be knocking at the door for admission into the union I have become acquainted with the Most prominent men about St Anthony and feel almost as much at home as if setting in Fri[e]nd Danls all that is wanting is to hear the Hearty laugh of Bricker and the pleasant smile of my Friend the Dr & Stough I have an excelent Boarding place and while I am writing this to you the Lady of the House (she is a splendid looking woman) is teasing

me for writing to my *sweet Heart* in Penn^a I of course take it all in good earnest for the sake of Conversation as I calculate to be pretty tolerably well acquainted about these diggings before I go east. She says one day Mr Mc you ought to have brought a wife with You you *surely must* feel the want of one Says I indeed Mrs Nourse I do feel the *want* and feel it *sensibly*.

To give You an entire account of My trip would fill some 5 sheets of Fools cap, and perhaps would create a smile on the most stoical Countenance Suffice it to say that I have travelld into the indian County within 200 miles of Lake Itasca the head of the Mississippi have slept in the midst of an encampment of 1200 Winnabagoes have crossed the Mississippi on a Dug out and floted on it[s] Clar water at Sauk Rapids 100 miles above St Anthony I have seen life in ways that I never did before Came across one man in the indian County who keeps a Tavern and is married to an Indian squaw he had two bouncing half Breed daughters good looking but dirty as the —l they received us kindly but as I saw them cooking the meal I had no appetite for it though Hungry in my next I shall give something more about the diferent soils &c my thanks to Friend Stough & Bricker for favors received

Truly Yours

W^m K McFARLANE

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

THE RADISSON MANUSCRIPT¹

The readers of MINNESOTA HISTORY may be interested in a short account of a recent visit which the writer paid to the Bodleian Library in Oxford to take a look at the Radisson manuscript. The officials in charge of the library were most courteous and produced the famous document without any especial letters of introduction.

The manuscript is bound in old vellum with no writing on either cover, inside or out. On the title page, however, written in bold hand, are these words: "A la plus grande Gloire de Dieu." Underneath this in smaller and different handwriting is the name or signature "M. S. Pepys." There is nothing else on the title page. The paper on which the text is written is thick and rather coarse in texture, of cream color and very well preserved. The text is written on both sides of the page. The pages are about nine inches wide by fourteen inches long. The handwriting is in a brownish-black ink, very easy and legible and very even—in fact it is quite evident from the careful spacing and regularity of the lines and borders that the manuscript must have been the work of some practiced amanuensis or copyist who either wrote from dictation or copied from some previous notes or from some existing French or English text. There are seven blank pages at the end. It is a matter of keen regret that the copyist did not use these blank pages to tell posterity a little more in detail just *where* Radisson went in his several "voyages."

There are several photostatic copies of this manuscript in America—one of which is owned by Mr. Arthur T. Adams of Minneapolis. Mr. Adams is making an exhaustive study

¹ This note was received by the editor in the form of a letter from Mr. Gale, dated November 12, 1926. *Ed.*

of the subject, and in the light of what he is doing, I forbear to make any further comments respecting the many peculiarities of the manuscript. What is much needed in my opinion is a more or less popular edition of Radisson, with some critical notes and explanations perhaps. Certainly Radisson's narrative is a most readable one, the equal, I was going to say, in interest to any story of pure adventure which we have. And of course for us of Minnesota—but I must not start any discussion. At any rate the Prince Society publication (1885) is practically the only publication of the *Voyages*, and it is one of the scarcest items in the whole list of Americana; in fact, not available at all to the general public.

While we are on this subject, may I be permitted to offer a suggestion of my own respecting the meaning of the word "Auxoticiat" in Radisson's heading of his famous third voyage: "*Now followeth the Auxoticiat Voyage into the Great and filthy Lake of the Hurrons, Upper Sea of the East, and Bay of the North.*" Have we not erred in trying to make an English word out of this hybrid? It is to be remembered that Radisson frequently refers to the Ottawa Indian nation or tribe under the name of "Otauack," sometimes spelled by him in the manuscript as "Ottauaks," "Octauac," "Octauacks," and "Octuack." (The Prince Society publication prints the *u* as an *n*, but in the original manuscript it is clearly *u*.) These people resided in Radisson's time around the upper end of Lake Huron and played an important part in the annals of the period. "The great flotillas coming down to Canada with furs were said to come from the Ottawa, while the region of the upper lakes was known as the Ottawa country." (Kellogg's *Early Narratives of the Northwest*, p. 36 n.) If, therefore, we cut this word "Auxoticiat" in two, between the *x* and the *o*, making two words of it, the first being the French preposition "aux," meaning in the French idiom "to the," or "at the," or sometimes simply "the," and the second part "oticiat" being an effort on the part of Radisson or the

copyist to write "Otauack," we get a result which means "to the Ottawa," or "at the Ottawa," or simply "the Ottawa," as described in Miss Kellogg's descriptive note. The heading, therefore, is to be read as if it were: "*Now followeth the Ottawa Voyage into the Great and filthy Lake of the Hurrons, Upper Sea of the East, and Bay of the North,*" which has common sense and is historically and geographically correct. The variation on the word at the end of the third voyage, "*The ende of the Auxotacicac voyage, w^{ch} is the third voyage,*" may be the result of another effort on the part of the copyist to write down or copy some strange word or words with which he was unfamiliar.

EDWARD C. GALE

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

THE STATE FAIR EXHIBIT

The exhibit of the Minnesota Historical Society at the annual state fair in September brought 1856 and 1926 face to face. It was installed at the south end of the building devoted to state department displays. Just outside the door the latest types of threshing machines, plows, road-graders, and ponderous trucks were in operation under the direction of leather-lunged demonstrators. Against the inside wall, forming the background of the historical exhibit, was a giant map in yellow and black, showing Minnesota's progress toward good roads. In the center of the great hall was a large exhibit of the Minnesota highway department showing in miniature the types of roads and the methods used in maintaining them. Near-by were the spaces occupied by the dairy and food commission, the department of agriculture, and the public health service, with their practical suggestions for better living conditions in 1926. Everything in the building bespoke the complexities of twentieth-century life save the quiet booth at the lower end.

Railed off completely from the rest of the displays, as if to emphasize the separation of the past from the present, stood the exhibit of the Minnesota Historical Society, a half-faced log cabin partly hidden by evergreen trees. There was a glow in the fireplace which invited the visitor, damp and chilly as he was from the drizzle outside, to stop, warm himself, and ponder for a moment upon the life that grandfather and grandmother led in Minnesota seventy years ago. The rough homemade bed with its home-woven blue and white "kiver," the table, stump stools, rifle and powderhorn, iron kettle, bellows, candle mould and wooden pound churn — all were there. Conveniently at hand outside the cabin door lay the ox yoke, grub hoe, adz, flail, and grain cradle with which the pioneer battled the wilderness.

Drawn up near the cabin stood a Red River oxcart, survivor of the days of the fur trade. As the old-timer gazed upon it, a mist seemed to pass before his eyes as he conjured up before his vision the spectacle of a pioneer ox train. One could almost read in his eyes the story of a meeting such as that described in an early account of "The Red River Trail."¹

Soon a single ox-cart could be distinguished at the head of the column, as if just emerging from the thick pall of dust. As the train approached, the outlines of other carts, filing in long procession, could be defined; and soon the foremost came up. . . . There were some hundred and fifty carts in all — rude, wooden vehicles, put together without a particle of iron — not excepting tires and linchpins — and each drawn by a single ox, harnessed in shafts with gearing of strips of raw hide. The appearance of the drivers accompanying was not less grotesque. One hardly knew whether to be most surprised at the odd uniformity of their costume of coarse blue cloth, richly ornate with brass buttons, their showy belts of red flannel, and their small jaunty caps, or at the remarkable diversity of their figures and complexions, including as it did, the fair skin and light-brown curls of the Saxon, and the swarthy hue and straight black hair of the Indian, with every intermediate shade that amalgamation could produce. Each driver had the charge of five or six carts, the animals being led

¹ *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, 18:615 (April, 1859).

by a strap tied to the cart next in front—so that, while he flourished his whip over the back of the leader, the rest were compelled to follow, *volens volens*. In some cases these straps had chafed the roots of the horns until the flesh was raw and bloody, and this added much to the woe-begone appearance of the wretched animals. Each cart was heavily loaded with furs, which were covered with a buffalo robe spread over the top.

Perhaps in the old-timer's memory the picture was enlivened by an unforgettable noise—"while the heavy wheels, that had never known grease, kept up an incessant creaking and groaning, as if speaking for the dumb oxen their unspeakable woes." If so, the sound merged, as the oxcart disappeared into the dust,—of ages,—with the raucous blasts of the horn of a motor truck forcing its way through a traffic jam.

Though such visions might fade, the oxcart itself was real and substantial, and to thousands of visitors whose memories did not run back to scenes when Minnesota transportation was still in a primitive stage, it furnished, when viewed in its setting, an interesting and instructive reconstruction of pioneer conditions.

WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. PAUL

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

The French Régime in Wisconsin and the Northwest. By LOUISE PHELPS KELLOGG, research associate of State Historical Society of Wisconsin. (Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1925. xv, 474 p. Illustrations, maps.)

Here is a comprehensive account of the French Northwest by one who knows more about it than anyone who has ever written on the subject; and this does not exclude Parkman, for many waters of research have flowed over the dam of tradition since that Yankee genius wrote. The book is long overdue, for the misstatements and misinterpretations of the older generation of historians have lingered too long in the minds of students. I have a direct personal interest in the appearance of this volume. Ever since my own work on a similar subject was published, I have feared that credit for certain interpretations that belonged by right to Miss Kellogg had been accredited to me. In my preface I attempted to make acknowledgment to Miss Kellogg for the gracious and unstinted assistance which she had given to me. But who reads a preface, or in reading does not discount the words of appreciation? In this work Miss Kellogg has covered the same ground as I did under her guidance, has treated the subjects more fully, and has proved more completely the novel points of view which she suggested to me.

This book is a publication of the Wisconsin Historical Society. The publication of books of this character is a sin, as is that of MINNESOTA HISTORY and similar magazines, against the principle of publication by such organizations which I have long held as a self-evident truth. Institutions which perform the function of archives should confine themselves to making public their riches in documentary material. This ideal is embodied in the *Illinois Historical Collections*, upon the development of which, it will be remembered, I had some influence. Enough said! Others should conform to the law thus exemplified. Yet every one of my friends, even those I have helped train in righteousness, turn away to worship the golden calf of popular history writing. The public

must be amused and edified, not damned. The universality of the heterodoxy has shaken my own faith in the god of logic. Practical politics may be a better faith. Popular magazines and monographs may bring larger appropriations, and we live by money. Yes! I yield to the greater wisdom of those who court the multitude. Democracy in theory still reigns in America, whatever may be the fact in Europe.

After thus relieving my mind of its philosophical doubts, I return to Miss Kellogg's volume, for which I am thankful, whoever may be its godfather. A few facts first. It contains 474 pages including 30 pages of an excellent index. There are 30 illustrations, many of which are of contemporary maps. The first 267 pages bring the narrative down to 1701, thus leaving 174 pages for the period to 1761, when the British occupied the posts on the Great Lakes. Before the main feast Miss Kellogg serves *hors d'œuvres*. They consist of three chapters on the early French exploration along the seacoast and up the rivers. The restaurants of Paris, where I am writing, have accustomed me to this preliminary to a good meal, but the French *chefs*' opening chapters are less substantial than these of a serious historian. I have read the author's justification—somewhat doubtful herself, evidently—of her cookery, but remain unconvinced. These forty-three pages, if reduced to a few paragraphs, would have sharpened our appetites more effectively. Still it is a matter of taste. *De gustibus non disputandum*.

The author's point of view is truly western as it should be. In her preface she writes: "Most of what has been written, however, has centralized in the East, has made the St. Lawrence valley the standpoint of departure. In this volume the attempt has been made to write from the standpoint of the West, to make the Northwest the unit of consideration and to relate first the approach to the West, then its occupation and its economic development, then its external relations with other portions of New France, and lastly its share in the downfall of French power in America." This she has done, and I have allowed her to tell the general contents of her book in her own words that I may utilize my space to draw attention to certain features of particular interest.

In chapters 5 and 6 we have presented for the first time an adequate picture of the changes in relations among the Indian tribes that occurred between the time that Jean Nicolet made his romantic exploration and the return to the region of the first traders after the devastating wars which occupied the years 1635-54. This is a contribution to our knowledge of the first order, and the greatest credit is due to Miss Kellogg for the careful research that has made it possible. The next chapter will be particularly valuable to historians of Minnesota. In it Miss Kellogg enters into a study of the perplexing problem of the Radisson journals. Her final conclusion concerning the first journey of this trader she sums up as follows: "If these facts are true, it makes it exceedingly difficult to arrange from Radisson's narrative any definite itinerary. Such an itinerary has been attempted by several scholars. None of their conclusions seem to us to be satisfactory. It appears to us from his narrative that Radisson spent most of his year in a southern rather than in a northern climate. He seems to have visited Green Bay and to have gone from there south toward the Illinois country. We are not disposed to consider Radisson as the discoverer of the Mississippi River."

As was to be expected Miss Kellogg's treatment of the Fox wars is most excellent. She has long been a master of the subject, but since writing her earlier account, much new material has come under her eyes. I have found great profit in reading chapter 17. It recounts the changes made by the French government in the methods of fur-trading; some were made for the sake of experiment, others because of the exigencies of conditions.

I have indicated that in profundity of scholarship this work surpasses that of Parkman. I wish that I might close with saying that it rivals the brilliance of his literary style. The English is, of course, always adequate for the expression of the author's thought; but I have found, unfortunately, little sparkle. Miss Kellogg has lived, as have so many of us, too long on a university campus, where the congregation of many serious souls creates an atmosphere of solemnity.

CLARENCE WALWORTH ALVORD

Contributions of the Canadian Jesuits to the Geographical Knowledge of New France, 1632-1675 (A thesis presented to the faculty of the graduate school of Cornell University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of doctor of philosophy). By NELLIS M. CROUSE. ([Ithaca, New York,] 1924. 175 p. Maps.)

In this study of 175 pages Dr. Crouse has reviewed the history of the Jesuits in the present New York state and the West with considerable care. He also presents one excellent chapter on the exploration of the routes to Hudson Bay. Although prepared primarily for those interested in the early explorations of the Jesuits in the Iroquois region of New York, his study concerns itself chiefly with the Mississippi Valley and Lake Superior. In these fields we feel competent to challenge some of the author's statements.

The introduction, with its account of the cartography of the seventeenth century, is good, though brief. When the author, however, comes to the discussion of the missionaries and their preparation for the work of exploration, he designates them as "doughty heralds" (p. 18) of the gospel—a term hardly commensurate with their aims and ambitions. Also he seems not to know how well equipped they were with instruments for the purpose of taking latitude, at least. A number of astrolabes have been found dating back to the earliest days of Jesuit journeying; and in the eighteenth century we have a definite request to the authorities to furnish astronomical instruments to those going up on the Mississippi River. (*Wisconsin Historical Collections*, 17:9.)

Chapter 3 begins properly with Nicolet's voyage, as the reports we have thereof are all from Jesuit sources. The author does not seem, however, to have understood that his was an official journey, undertaken at the instance of Champlain, and in continuation of the latter's own western explorations. In Dr. Crouse's discussion of Nicolet's routes and interior exploration in Wisconsin he follows Butterfield and the earlier writers, without seeming to be aware that recent study of the Indian geography of Wisconsin in the seventeenth century has altered the factors of the problem.

True he mentions a "later critic" without naming him. His conclusion, however, of Nicolet's discoveries is not in line with recent investigation. In the same connection he makes a serious blunder in speaking of Allouez's journey as occurring two years after his advent to Canada in 1658. This he corrects, however, in his later account of Allouez on Lake Superior.

Furthermore, Dr. Crouse's discussion of the mission locations for St. Francis Xavier is unsatisfactory. If he had made himself familiar with Arthur C. Neville's thorough study of the missions on Green Bay, published in the *Proceedings* of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin for 1905, he need not have been so vague. It would also seem that this thesis published in 1924 might have considered the present reviewer's article on Father Ménard in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for June, 1921. We might remark on other lapses. The author knew nothing of Jolliet's Colbert map; he spells Wisconsin Indian terms with an *m* — Kewaumee, Kaukauma are to be noted; Allouez did visit Illinois before 1677 — in fact before Marquette's return in 1673; Marquette did not leave Illinois on his final voyage by the St. Joseph-Kankakee route. But why multiply the recital of errors? The general fact remains clear that in dealing with Wisconsin geography and history the author was not familiar with the localities, and depended upon older, now obsolescent authorities.

The chapter on Lake Superior is somewhat better, — the author had the excellent map of 1670 to guide him, — and his discussion of Brulé's possible discovery and of Allouez's voyages is fair and judicious.

The reproduction of rare maps is a very great addition to the monograph. There is no table of contents for these, and no index for the entire volume. The bibliography is voluminous, but open to the objections mentioned above.

The volume is very well conceived, and should be the precursor of many studies of the contributions of the early missionaries to the geography, ethnology, archeology, and primitive conditions of the "upper country" of Canada — that is, the Great Lakes and upper Mississippi Valley.

LOUISE PHELPS KELLOGG

Historical Aspects of the Immigration Problem: Select Documents. By EDITH ABBOTT, dean of the graduate school of social service administration and professor of social economy in the University of Chicago. (Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, 1926. xx, 881 p.)

As its title indicates, this volume represents an attempt to illuminate the immigration problem by bringing together documents relating to its historical backgrounds. The book contains 201 selections of varying length, grouped under the following heads: "Causes of Emigration: Emigration Conditions in the United Kingdom and Northern Europe," "Economic Aspects of the Immigration Problem," "Early Problems of Assimilation," "Pauperism and Crime and Other Domestic Immigration Problems," and "Public Opinion and the Immigrant."

The title of the volume and the nature of the selections make it clear that the author is primarily interested in the present-day immigration problem. That she is not unaware of the possibility of making a broader approach is revealed in her preface, where she takes occasion to point out that "immigration has been, throughout our history, one of the great outstanding facts of our national life." Indeed, she goes so far as to say that "It is to this unparalleled migration of the masses from the Old World that we owe in large measure our position as the greatest and richest country in the world." It is not this larger significance of immigration that the author has sought to illustrate, however. She is concerned primarily with the fact that the "immigration problems of today had their counterparts in the problems of yesterday." This is a sound view, and there can be no doubt that current immigration problems need to be studied in the light of the past, but the student of history goes much further. He is interested in American immigration because it is one of the larger factors in American history, because a knowledge of its many historical ramifications should throw light not merely upon the present-day immigration problem but upon American life and institutions generally.

An idea of the value of Dr. Abbott's book may be had by noting that in its first section it contains such materials as De Crèvecoeur's

discussion of what America offered to the poor of Europe, a letter from Welsh immigrants in Pennsylvania in 1800, Morris Birkbeck's views on the opportunities of a farmer in Illinois, Gottfried Duden's account of the attractions of pioneer life in Missouri, newspaper and magazine comments on the early immigration, numerous selections on the backgrounds of Irish immigration, and extracts from various early French and German books on emigration. For Minnesota readers special interest attaches to an extract from Hans Mattson's *Reminiscences: The Story of an Emigrant*, telling of his trip to Sweden in 1868-69, and to extracts from the report of the Minnesota board of immigration for 1871, presenting a picture of what western states were doing to attract immigrants in the early seventies.

The materials in the volume deal with the so-called "old immigration" from Europe and with the period before 1882.

T. C. B.

Old Fort Crawford and the Frontier. By BRUCE E. MAHAN.
(Iowa City, State Historical Society of Iowa, 1926. xv, 349 p.
Illustrations.)

This book has been long expected and eagerly anticipated; the historians of the Mississippi Valley have looked forward to the publication of this volume to aid them in the solution of the problems concerning the Prairie du Chien frontier. The work now at hand does not disappoint the expectations it had aroused; it is a carefully wrought, thorough study of the famous old fort, built in 1816, removed and rebuilt 1829-34, evacuated in 1849, reoccupied during the Civil War, and finally sold by the government in 1868, the picturesque ruins of which still ornament the modern city of Prairie du Chien.

The first portion of the book, comprising nearly a fourth of the whole, is in the nature of a prologue, although only the first of the five chapters is so designated by the author. This prologue furnishes the setting or background for the period to be discussed, gives the early history of the region, and the causes which brought about the building of Fort Crawford in 1816. It comprises a hasty sketch of the French discovery of the Mississippi, the British

and Spanish period with its Revolutionary incidents, the American occupation of Louisiana, the Sauk and Fox treaty of 1804, the Pike expedition of 1805-06, the struggle for Prairie du Chien in 1814. This long record of nearly a century and a half is very well summarized, although the French period might have received more adequate treatment. The author's familiarity with French is not great, or he would not write "Le Jaun Rivière" for "La Rivière Jaune"; nor Louis de Baude for Buade. He also clings to the single *l* in Jolliet's name, although there is proof that the discoverer himself wrote his name as above. Mr. Mahan does not mention the Fox village of the chief Le Chien noted in the French records before the Des Noyelles expedition of 1734, which he describes in some detail, possibly because it penetrated the present state of Iowa.

The history of this region during the War of 1812, the building of Fort Shelby by the Americans, its capture and rechristening as Fort McKay, and the incidents of the siege and occupation have never before been told so well nor with so fine a sense of proportion. One source, however, Mr. Mahan failed to avail himself of—the American accounts in the St. Louis newspapers of the time, copies of which are in the Draper Manuscripts.

Chapter 6 introduces the author's subject, the building of the first Fort Crawford, and the incidents of the decade of its occupation, from 1816 to 1826. He makes excellent use therein of the diary of Willard Keyes, published in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, to give color and vitality to the years 1818 and 1819. He also gives some hitherto lacking information concerning the commandants of that period, found in the military reports at Washington. There follow most interesting chapters on the "Great Council of 1825" and the "Winnebago Outbreak" of 1827, which take the reader into the heart of the frontier ceremonies and dangers. In the account of the latter event our author unfortunately perpetuates the error of Lockwood and Draper as to the date of the Methode murder. Several contemporary letters in the archives of the bureau of Indian affairs show that this hostile action took place in 1826, and that the Indians imprisoned for the crime were those removed to Fort Snelling in the spring of 1827. The subsequent action of Red Bird, his dramatic sur-

render at Portage, and his punishment and death are excellently epitomized by our author.

In the account of the treaty of 1829 Mr. Mahan relies largely on the narrative of Caleb Atwater, one of the commissioners; he does not appear to know that the journal of Colonel John McNeil, another commissioner, is in the library of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. He does not state the extent of the boundaries laid down in that treaty; while in describing the Winnebago treaty of 1832 he twice states (p. 177, 201) that the Indians ceded all their land east of the Mississippi. This was not true; the cession was only of that portion south of the Wisconsin River.

These corrections, however, cover but minor faults in a book whose excellence is manifest, and which will be enjoyed equally by the professional historian and the general reader. The mechanics of the volume are excellent — beautiful paper, fine type, careful printing, delightful and illuminating illustration, an excellent index, and adequate notes. We confess to a preference for notes on the page with the text, but the other is Iowa's way; and the entire Mississippi Valley owes a debt of gratitude to the historical society of that state for its fine studies of the Mississippi forts, Snelling and Crawford.

In chapter fifteen, "Glimpses of Garrison Life," Mr. Mahan has given us some pleasing incidents of the daily and occasional happenings at the frontier posts. Never will the readers visit the military cemetery still existing at Prairie du Chien without a thought for the young officers and their brides who dared the isolation of a western post and there laid down their lives for their country. Joys and sorrows, sunshine and shadows flit through the pages of this book with the touch of nature that makes the whole world kin.

LOUISE PHELPS KELLOGG

The Life of Knute Nelson. By Martin W. Odland. (Minneapolis, 1926. 335 p. Illustrations.)

A detailed analysis of Mr. Odland's study of the life of Knute Nelson, based upon its publication in the form of a series of newspaper articles, was included in the last number of the magazine (*ante*, p. 295). It will therefore be sufficient to note here that in

its final form the work contains twenty chapters, some of which are fuller than the corresponding chapters in the newspaper version, and that an index of names has been added. The book is handsomely printed, though the author has unfortunately retained the journalistic captions which break up each chapter into six or eight divisions for the benefit of newspaper readers.

In a letter to the reviewer Dr. William W. Folwell, president of the Minnesota Historical Society and president emeritus of the University of Minnesota, writes:

I find Odland's *Life of Knute Nelson* an excellent piece of work. It is not a mere glorification of a favorite character, but a well-planned account of the facts of the senator's life with a judicious estimate of his qualities and achievements.

Mr. Odland's clear and forcible English style makes the book good reading and will, I presume, give the work a considerable sale among the large body of Senator Nelson's admirers, among whom I am one.

T. C. B.

The Battle of Birch Coulee: A Wounded Man's Description of a Battle with the Indians (An address given at a meeting of the Sons of Veterans at Eau Claire, Wisconsin, in January, 1925). By ROBERT K. BOYD. ([Eau Claire, Wisconsin,] 1925. 23 p.)

The Real Indian: Some Notes on the Real Character of the American Indian of the Northern Frontier. By ROBERT K. BOYD. ([Eau Claire, Wisconsin,] 1926. 16 p.)

Early Conditions of the Chippewa Valley (An address delivered at the County Training School at Eau Claire, Wis., June 8th, 1921). By ROBERT K. BOYD. (N. p., n. d. 11 p.)

It is always more interesting and more valuable from the point of view of sound criticism to judge a man's writings by several products of his pen than to deal with only an isolated effort. In considering these three short pamphlets by Mr. Boyd the reviewer has the further advantage of dealing with one general topic, the Minnesota-Wisconsin frontier in the sixties and seventies, though each contribution makes a particular feature of that frontier stand forth. Most successful of the three, both in vigor and style and in power of narration, is that describing the battle of Birch Coulee between the Sioux Indians and a detachment of Minnesota troops.

The very simplicity of the language carries conviction; and the use of anecdotes chosen not for their blood-curdling details but for a fair representation of facts gives a verisimilitude that is in pleasing contrast to the plethora of "headline" articles that have appeared on this event since the day of its occurrence. With forthrightness and fairmindedness the author establishes his ability to present a true picture; thereupon he discusses the rights and wrongs of the Indians without emotionalism, and the reader is made to feel that he knows whereof he speaks. His point of view is that of a man who has seen scores of his comrades killed and has himself received several disfiguring wounds at the hands of a savage foe, but who yet describes these events dispassionately. He asks the reader to believe that the Indians were goaded into fury through white men's treachery and that under normal conditions the Sioux were men to be respected.

This ability to see the essential qualities in men is, indeed, the outstanding characteristic in all of these pamphlets by Mr. Boyd. In the first he reveals it in dealing with the Sioux; in the second in describing the Chippewa of Wisconsin, with whom he traded and was well acquainted; in the third in writing of the adventure-loving, French-Canadian raftsmen on the Chippewa River in the heyday of the lumber industry there. It may be well to explain, however, that Mr. Boyd is no sentimental romancer, seeing a hero in every Indian or frontiersman. Years of close business dealings and personal contacts with dirty Indians and reckless lumberjacks have brushed the bloom from any rosy ideals he may ever have entertained of the noble savage and the chivalrous riverman.

In the Minnesota Historical Society's copies of two of the booklets listed above the author has added manuscript annotations which are of considerable value. A diagram of the raft used by the rivermen on the Chippewa River and a picture with notes of two batteaux filled with rivermen, both inserted in the last pamphlet, are especially enlightening contributions to the literature describing methods and implements used in the lumbering industry. Besides these notes and other addenda, Mr. Boyd has drawn from memory a manuscript diagram of the camp at Birch Coulee; and he has prepared a small scrapbook of newspaper articles written by himself on the battle and its results. These items are now in the manuscript division of the Minnesota Historical Society.

G. L. N.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

The superintendent resumed his position on October 1, after a leave of absence that began on February 1, when he took up his duties as executive secretary for the endowment campaign of the American Historical Association. His leave of absence from the University of Minnesota has been extended to January 1, 1927, and until then he will divide his time between the work of the society and that of the campaign of the national association. The acting superintendent has returned to his post as assistant superintendent and has also resumed his duties as professor of history at Hamline University after a semester's leave of absence.

At a meeting of the society's executive council, held on October 11, the superintendent spoke on the endowment campaign of the American Historical Association, and Mr. Ralph Budd of St. Paul read the sketch of Olin D. Wheeler which appears in this issue of MINNESOTA HISTORY.

The outstanding recent event in the field of publication by the society is the completion of volume 3 of Dr. Folwell's *History of Minnesota*, copies of which were distributed to members in October and November. This volume, which brings the story of Minnesota from the end of the Civil War down to the present time, will be reviewed in a later number of the magazine. Chapter 3, on "Progress and Politics, 1870-76," was published in full in the *Minneapolis Journal* for September 19. Editorial work has been started on volume 4, which will contain discussions on various important special topics that have not been brought into the main narrative, for example, the conservation movement and the development of education in the state.

Thirty-one additions to the active membership of the society were made during the quarter ending September 30, 1926. The names of the new members, grouped by counties, follow:

BLUE EARTH: Willard L. Comstock of Mankato.

BROWN: Le Roy G. Davis of Sleepy Eye.

DAKOTA: Myrtle Bloemers and Evelyn E. Handyside of South St. Paul.

HENNEPIN: Reverend John R. Hargreaves, Dr. Miland A. Knapp, Donald T. Lucas, Lucian C. Miller, Henry C. Olsen, Mrs. Frank C. Todd, and Fendall G. Winston of Minneapolis.

MORRISON: Holger E. Palmer of Lincoln.

OLMSTED: Dr. Robert D. Mussey of Rochester.

RAMSEY: Clovis M. Converse, Dr. Warren M. Dodge, Jr., Clarence D. Hayes, Mary Virginia Nute, Wilfred W. Walker, and Charles Weschcke of St. Paul.

ST. LOUIS: George A. Fay and Maynard W. Turner of Duluth.

WILKIN: Chester A. Gewalt of Breckenridge.

WINONA: Herman F. Gerlicher of Winona.

WRIGHT: Sister M. Rosalie of Waverly.

YELLOW MEDICINE: Lue A. Olds of Granite Falls.

NONRESIDENT: George R. Lyman of Pasadena, California; Colonel William C. Brown of Denver, Colorado; George S. Carson of Iowa City, Iowa; Irving H. Hart of Cedar Falls, Iowa; Mrs. Frank W. Knight of Spencer, Iowa; and Hellen D. Asher of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

The Free Public Library of Alexandria and the school libraries of Brewster and New London recently became subscribers to the publications of the society.

The society lost five active members by death during the three months ending September 30: Mrs. Rome G. Brown of Minneapolis, July 24; Mrs. William M. Liggett of St. Paul, August 2; Charles H. Bennett of Pipestone, August 23; Wilfred J. Whitefield of Sauk Center, August 31; and S. Percy Crosby of St. Paul, September 22. The death of Jarvis W. Mason of St. Paul on April 4, 1926, has not previously been reported in this magazine.

Steady progress is being made in the society's war records division on the history of Minnesota in the World War. Of the first volume, which is to deal with military activities at home and abroad, ten out of twelve chapters were practically completed by October 1. By the end of the year this volume will undoubtedly be finished and the drafting of the second begun. During the

summer Dr. Wayne Stevens of Dartmouth College devoted one month to the division and drafted a portion of the text. Mr. Clarence B. Winter of Minneapolis, a World War veteran, has also been called on for assistance in the drafting of a chapter.

Work has been completed on a cumulative check list of Minnesota public documents for the period from 1923 to 1925. This will be printed in the near future and should prove a useful compilation, especially for libraries and for public officials.

On September 21 the acting superintendent and the curator of manuscripts spoke at a dinner given in Anoka by the Kiwanis Club of that city. The presiding officer, Mr. Roe Chase, called attention to the growing interest in Anoka County history and made it clear that a definite local history organization will probably be brought about before long in that county. Mr. Blegen spoke on "The Lure of Minnesota History," and drew a number of specific examples from the history of Anoka County. Miss Nute took as her subject "Finding the Sources for Our History" and also gave special attention to the Anoka County region.

At the request of the recreation department of the University of Minnesota summer session, the curator of the museum accompanied a party of 120 students to Fort Snelling and Mendota on July 10. Motor busses were chartered for the trip, which was in the nature of a combined sight-seeing and historical tour. Informal talks were given by Mr. Babcock at Fort Snelling and at the Sibley House. Through the courtesy of officers of the fort, both the Round and the Hexagonal towers were opened for inspection.

In September the curator of manuscripts made a successful trip to St. Cloud and Collegeville in search of historical materials. A particularly valuable item examined in the library of St. John's University was a file of the rare *Berichte der Leopoldinen-Stiftung*, the organ of a Viennese Catholic organization interested in the conversion of the American Indians. In this file are printed letters from such figures in Minnesota's past as Bishop Baraga, Father Pierz, and other missionaries from the thirties, forties,

and fifties. The file has been borrowed for the purpose of making photostatic copies of letters and reports that possess special Minnesota interest. The library of the university also contains files of the *Berichte über die Gesellschaft zur Verbreitung des Glaubens und die Missioner Amerikas*, published at Munich beginning in 1832, and of the *Katholische Kirchenzeitung* and *Wahrheits-Freund*, published respectively at Baltimore and Cincinnati. In the volume of the *Wahrheits-Freund* for 1839 Dr. Nute found a column of information about the newly established diocese of Dubuque, which at that time included St. Peter's. In St. Cloud Dr. Nute examined a partial file of the *St. Cloud Visiter*, the Abolitionist newspaper edited by the militant Jane Gray Swiss-helm. The file is in the possession of the *Daily Journal-Press* of St. Cloud.

The society's calendar of American Fur Company Papers, work on which has been under way for more than a year, has been completed and indexed, and copies have been supplied to eight coöperating institutions. Another coöperative enterprise recently brought to a conclusion is the compilation and indexing of abstracts of fur-traders' licences in the Canadian Archives at Ottawa, covering roughly the period from 1765 to 1790 and containing much material for eighteenth-century Minnesota history.

ACCESSIONS

The agent at Washington for the Conference of Historical Agencies of the Upper Mississippi Valley has recently sent the society calendar cards for the letter books of the secretaries of war from 1800 to 1821. Not a few of the letters relate to the founding of Fort Snelling and some deal with the Indians of the Minnesota region.

In the June number of this magazine (*ante*, p. 163) reference is made to the letter books of Gabriel Franchere and John Livingston, agents of the American Fur Company at Sault Ste. Marie from 1834 to 1847. In July the society's curator of manuscripts visited Sault Ste. Marie and secured copies of more than forty of the Franchere letters and calendar cards for or abstracts of many

other letters and documents. As Sault Ste. Marie was the gateway to Lake Superior, the factor of the great fur company at that post naturally had much to tell in his letters of matters that pertain to the region now known as Minnesota. It may be noted that Franchere was almost continuously connected with the history of this region from the time of his trip over the Rainy Lake and Fort William route on his way east from Astoria after its capture in the War of 1812 until his death in St. Paul in 1863 at the home of his stepson, John S. Prince. Dr. Frederick W. Franchere of Lake Crystal, a descendant of the famous fur-trader, has presented a brief manuscript genealogy of the Franchere family and a number of biographical sketches of the trader taken from early newspapers. He has also placed on deposit a silver Astor medal that originally belonged to Gabriel Franchere. The Astor medals, struck for use at Fort Union on the upper Missouri River by the American Fur Company in the early thirties, are extremely rare, for only two or three others are known to be in existence.

A biographical sketch of the Reverend Francis Pirec, or Pierz, a Catholic priest who labored as a missionary among the Minnesota Chippewa Indians from 1835 to 1873, has been presented by the author, Sister Grace McDonald of the Benedictine convent at St. Joseph.

A letter containing a vivid picture of the pioneer village of St. Paul, which was written on June 1, 1851, by Sarah Winslow, shortly after her arrival at that place, has been presented by Mr. George A. Hall of Olympia, Washington. It is published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for July 25.

Additional papers of the late Curtis H. Pettit have been received from his daughter, Mrs. George P. Douglas of Minneapolis, who earlier in the year presented a collection of much interest for the political and business life of Minneapolis (see *ante*, p. 287). These papers relate in the main to the business development of Minneapolis from 1856 to the end of the Civil War.

From the bureau of the census in Washington photostatic copies of certain population schedules for the census of 1860 in Minnesota have recently been obtained in an effort to fill the gaps in the

files of these schedules already in the society's possession. The recent acquisitions complete the schedules for Kandiyohi, Monongalia, Murray, Sibley, and Ramsey counties. For Ramsey County alone the schedule numbers 315 pages.

The society has secured recently from officials at Fort Snelling a list of the archives of the Department of Dakota for the period during and after the Civil War, which were stored at the fort until 1925, when some of them were transferred to the war department in Washington. Many of them remain at the fort, however, and since these papers contain considerable material on the Indian wars in the Dakotas, Montana, and Idaho, as well as on many other important events, the finding list now in the possession of the society is of distinct value.

A manuscript containing reminiscences of Arthur R. Moro relating to his experiences as a member of the English colony at Fairmont from 1875 to 1883 has been presented by the author, an Englishman who lives in London. Mr. Moro witnessed the grasshopper plague of 1877, of which he gives a vivid account in his manuscript. He established a coöperative cheese factory in Fairmont and was one of the founders of the first public library. Thus he is able to write of the early history of Fairmont from the points of view both of a business man and of a promoter of its cultural interests.

A trunkful of papers and a number of ledgers of the late Newton H. Winchell, dealing chiefly with archeological and geological matters, have been added to the society's collection of Winchell Papers by his son and two daughters, Professor Alexander N. Winchell of Madison, Wisconsin, Mrs. D. Draper Dayton of Minneapolis, and Mrs. U. S. Grant of Evanston, Illinois.

Recent additions to the society's military collection include gifts of a musket of 1861 and a sabre, from Miss Mabel Marvin of Winona; a fragment of a battle flag carried by the Forty-second Royal Highlanders at the battle of Waterloo, from Mr. Herbert D. Morris of St. Paul; and helmets, bayonets, shell cases, trench knives, and other World War objects, from Mr. Norman D. Shirley of St. Paul.

An excellent specimen of a stone metate on three legs and the muller used with it have been deposited by Mr. J. L. Lundberg of Reads; and two stone arrow and spear points from Norman Township, Pine County, have been given by Mr. H. R. Buck of Askov.

A large collection of political medals and badges, both for state and national campaigns, has been presented by Mrs. Fred C. Stevens of St. Paul.

Numerous gifts that have recently enriched the society's domestic life collection include hair and moss wreaths, a pinking iron, a seam-holder, a carved ivory thimble holder, and other items from Miss Mabel Marvin of Winona; a number of old-fashioned children's dresses and other items, including a brass warming pan presented in the name of Mrs. John Moses, from Miss Beatrice Longfellow of Minneapolis; a fine old grandfather's clock, a "spool" type cradle, and a three-piece walnut bedroom set of the seventies, from Professor Winchell, Mrs. Dayton, and Mrs. Grant, whose gift of manuscripts has previously been noted; a small bisque doll and several other items from Mrs. James T. Morris, now of Washington, D. C.; and a small parlor organ that was brought to Minneapolis in 1866, from Miss Elizabeth Foss of Minneapolis.

A grub hoe, a trough adze, a number of handmade carpenter's tools, and a practically complete set of old shoemaker's tools have been presented to the society by Miss Eva Demerit of Rice through the courtesy of Mr. Nelson Flint of North St. Paul.

Gifts that have been added to the society's picture and portrait collection in the last quarter include photographs of Fathers Buh, Clemens, and Morogna, early Catholic missionaries in Minnesota, from Sister Grace McDonald of the Benedictine convent at St. Joseph; photographs of Cushman K. Davis and Fred C. Stevens from Mrs. Fred C. Stevens of St. Paul; an autographed photograph of Emilio Aguinaldo from Mr. C. Treat Spear of St. Paul; photographic copies of pictures of John Jacob Astor, Joseph La Barge, Grant Marsh, and Captain Gray, from the Great Northern Railway Company; pictures of Isaac P. Wright from Mrs. Henry

Nicolls of St. Paul and of D. W. Gray from Mrs. D. W. Gray of St. Paul; fourteen photographic copies of early St. Paul views, from Mr. Frederick G. Ingersoll of St. Paul; fifteen photographic copies of old pictures showing various fur-trading posts and scenes in the Northwest, from the Great Northern Railway; a print showing justices of the state supreme court from 1850 to 1897, from the attorney-general, the Honorable Clifford Hilton; and an album of postcard views of early Minneapolis made from Bromley-Upton negatives, from Mrs. James T. Morris.

NEWS AND COMMENT

The Minnesota committee for the endowment fund of the American Historical Association is headed by Governor Theodore Christianson, with Mr. Edward C. Gale of Minneapolis as vice chairman and Mr. Theodore C. Blegen, assistant superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, and Mr. George M. Stephenson, assistant professor of history in the University of Minnesota, as executive secretaries. Headquarters have been established in the Historical Building, St. Paul, and steps are being taken to raise in the state the sum of \$20,000 toward the total endowment of \$1,000,000. The program of the American Historical Association has already been presented in this magazine by the executive secretary of the national campaign, Dr. Solon J. Buck. It is hoped that Minnesota will give generous support to this notable project for the promotion "of American history and of history in America." Those interested in this cause are asked to send their contributions to Mr. Blegen, who will receive them on behalf of the state committee and forward them to the national headquarters. It has been announced that contributors of \$1,000 to the fund are to be designated as patrons; of \$5,000 as donors; and of \$10,000 as benefactors; and contributors of \$100 or more are regularly enrolled as life members of the American Historical Association. Governor Christianson declares, "This is a movement to bring history more effectively into the service of the present, and I bespeak for it the hearty support of all those to whom the special appeal is made"; and Dr. William W. Folwell, president of the Minnesota Historical Society and president emeritus of the University of Minnesota, writes, "This is an appeal to intelligence. It is made only to a select few persons, but they will, I hope, make a generous response."

An important discussion of the significance of "Western Radicalism in American Politics," by James A. Woodburn, is the leading article in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for September. The paper was read as the annual presidential address of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association last

spring. In the same number of the *Review* are an examination of "The Notion of a Great American Desert East of the Rockies," by Ralph C. Morris; and a translation of "The St. Joseph Baptismal Register," which contains among other interesting items a number of baptismal records bearing the signature of Michel Guignas, the Jesuit priest who, in 1727, was a member of the expedition of La Perrière to the Minnesota country.

An account of the native industries still practiced by the Chippewa who live around the Mille Lacs trading post is published as a feature article in the magazine section of the *Minneapolis Journal* for September 19. It is based upon information furnished by Miss Frances Densmore of Red Wing.

Of the total number of pages in *The True Story of Hiawatha and History of the Six Nation Indians* by A. Leon Hatzan (Toronto, 1925. 298 p.), only a scant sixteen deal with the original Iroquois Hiawatha, the founder of the confederacy of the Six Nations. The book is essentially a brief history of the Iroquois nation, very sympathetically presented. One of Dr. Hatzan's purposes in preparing the volume was to prove a thesis that hardly needs further proof, namely that Longfellow in writing his classic "drew fully upon his extraordinary imagination, weaving into his beautiful story, legend, tradition, myth, and folklore of Sioux, Ojibway, and Iroquois."

A brief study of *The Bison and the Fur Trade*, by R. O. Merriam has been brought out as number 53 of the *Bulletins* of the departments of history and political and economic science in Queen's University (September, 1926. 19 p.). The pamphlet contains considerable useful information culled for the most part from easily accessible printed materials.

From the Atlantic to the Pacific is the title of a volume of reminiscences by Aaron Lee (Seattle, 1915. 190 p.), a pioneer who first responded to the call of the West in 1855, when he left his Massachusetts home to take up a homestead in Mower County, Minnesota. Later he moved into Iowa, and finally he crossed the western half of the continent to spend his declining years in the state of Washington. The book includes a chapter on pioneer life

in Minnesota and an account of the author's experiences as a member of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War.

The "Memoirs of Capt. Sam. R. Van Sant," which are being published in weekly installments in the *Burlington [Iowa] Post*, begin on August 21 with an account of what the author calls "The First Trip by Boat from St. Louis to St. Anthony Falls" — that made by Lieutenant Pike in 1805. Three installments are devoted to the story of this voyage, and then on September 11 the reminiscences proper open. Apparently these are to consist of scattered recollections of steamboating experiences on the Mississippi and of the Civil War.

A trip down the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers to St. Louis aboard a barge loaded with lumber in 1866, as recalled by Gustof Larson of Winthrop, is described by Win V. Working in the *Winthrop News* for September 16.

The early days of the railroad between the Twin Cities and Chicago when the fare was twenty-three dollars, the "running time was 25 hours," and "there were no Pullmans with sleeping berths — only day coaches" are recalled in an article in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for July 4.

A scholarly study of "The Background of the Beginnings of Swedish Immigration, 1850-1875," by George M. Stephenson, is published in the *American Historical Review* for July. The article is of special value for its analysis of the religious situation in its relation to emigration backgrounds. The author declares that the "confluence of various forms of dissatisfaction with conditions in the Established Church coincides with the beginnings of emigration," and he presents numerous details correlating an important laymen's movement against the formalism of the state church with the spread of the so-called "America fever" throughout Sweden. Though the religious phase of the situation is brought into an unaccustomed prominence, the author does not neglect the economic causes of the emigration.

An enlightening account of the Norwegian *bonde* forms a chapter in a volume entitled *Norway*, by G. Gathorne Hardy (*New*

York, 1925. 324 p.). The chapter, and indeed the entire volume, will be of value to students interested in the backgrounds of the Norwegian element in the United States.

A photographic reproduction of *Eielsen's Catechism*, which has been brought out by Dr. O. M. Norlie (Minneapolis, 1925. 36 p.), makes available what is believed to be the first book printed in America by a Norwegian. The original, an English version of Luther's *Smaller Catechism*, was published in 1841 at New York, by Elling Eielsen, a famous Norwegian-American lay preacher, who had immigrated to the United States two years earlier. A condensed outline by Dr. Norlie of the main events in Eielsen's career serves as a useful preface to the text.

An excellent study of "The Wisconsin Press and Slavery," by Kate Everest Levi, appears in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for July [June?]. In the same number Dr. Joseph Schafer offers some interesting observations on the art of reviewing books of history, and there is a colorful account of "Early Lumbering on the Chippewa" over the name of Bruno Vinette. The editor explains that Mr. William W. Bartlett of Eau Claire interviewed Vinette, a lumberman who came to the West in 1853. Later Mr. Bartlett "wrote the reminiscences as though the veteran logger had himself written them." The September number of the magazine contains an interesting historical sketch of "Prairie du Chien, the Sentinel of the Old Border," by W. A. Titus. Though the author has drawn upon many interesting sources of information for his account, he seems to have missed the sprightly account given by Peter Pond of his visit to Prairie du Chien in 1773. In the documentary section of the September number are published translations of a number of letters written by the Right Reverend John M. Henni and the Reverend Anthony Urbanek in the period from 1845 to 1852, describing religious and social conditions in Wisconsin, and particularly in Milwaukee, from the point of view of emissaries of the Roman Catholic *Leopoldinen-Stiftung* of Vienna. The documents are drawn from the published *Berichte* of that association and are excellent illustrations of the detailed and valuable information that the *Berichte* contain on the history of the West.

An interesting account of "North Wisconsin in History and Romance," by C. H. Crownhart, is appearing serially in the *Wisconsin Magazine*. The October installment deals principally with the Ojibway Indians.

A valuable study of "The Landfall of Nicolet, 1634," by Arthur C. Neville, appears in the *Green Bay Historical Bulletin* for May-June.

An article entitled "The 'Hutchins' Map of Michigan," by William L. Jenks, is published in the *Michigan History Magazine* for July. A reproduction of the map is included, and the journal of a tour of the Great Lakes in 1762 by Thomas Hutchins, its maker, is also printed.

Lively sketches of pioneer life in the region that borders Minnesota to the west make up a volume entitled *Early Days in Dakota* by Edwin C. Torrey (Minneapolis, 1925). It contains the usual pictures of the Dakota prairies — of blizzards, buffalo hunts, and Indian scares — and it also includes some interesting sketches of men who figured in the history of the region. A chapter of special Minnesota interest tells of a "Dakotan in Nelson's First Fight." It describes the services during the Nelson-Kindred campaign of 1882 — which, by the way, was not Nelson's "first fight" — of Professor A. R. Cornwall, one of Nelson's instructors at Albion Academy in Wisconsin, who had settled on a Dakota homestead.

A new bridge that is being built across the Missouri River at Sanish, North Dakota, will be called the Verendrye Bridge in honor of the explorer, La Vérendrye. Here is an excellent idea for memorials honoring the early western explorers.

An important letter by Louis Riel and Ambroise Lépine to the lieutenant governor of Manitoba, dated January 3, 1873, which is published in the *Canadian Historical Review* for June, presents the Riel version of the first Red River rebellion. The document is translated from the French original by A. H. de Trémaudan. Riel and Lépine state that in 1872 they went from Manitoba to St. Paul, where they resided for some time.

GENERAL MINNESOTA ITEMS

More than a hundred tales of Minnesota localities, most of which deal with local history, have now appeared in the series of "Gopher Trails" in the *St. Paul Dispatch* (see *ante*, p. 296). Such subjects as the early days of Moorhead (July 5), the history of Lake Pepin (July 31), the development of dairying around Red Lake Falls (August 14), the Rainy Lake gold rush and the later growth of International Falls (August 23), and the stories of Grand Portage and Fond du Lac (September 7 and 18) are dealt with in the articles. By their publication the *Dispatch* has done much to familiarize Minnesotans with the story of the state and to arouse an interest in local history. Especially has the latter object been accomplished through the offering of prizes for the best stories contributed by outsiders. The essay which won the first prize, an account of the history of Point Douglas by Ralph Henry, an instructor at Miami University and formerly a student at Carleton College, is printed in the *Dispatch* for September 20. A tale of a French pioneer's experiences in the Sioux Massacre by Everett S. Mills of Montevideo, printed on September 21, took the second prize. Stories based upon ideas furnished by other contestants have continued to appear in the *Dispatch*.

Large portions of Henry H. Sibley's account of the hunting expeditions on which he accompanied groups of Sioux Indians in 1840 and 1841 are quoted in a feature article entitled "Pioneers Again Take to the Buffalo Trail in Minnesota with General Sibley, Faribault, Nicollet and Fremont," which appears in the *Minneapolis Journal* for July 11. The article contains the statement that "the tale comes from a memoir in General Sibley's own handwriting, never before published." It is printed, however, as part of Sibley's reminiscences in volume 3 of the *Minnesota Historical Collections*.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the treaty of Traverse des Sioux was the occasion for a celebration under the auspices of the Captain Richard Somers chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of St. Peter at Traverse des Sioux on July 23. Among the speakers were Mr. Thomas Hughes of Mankato, Mrs.

W. J. Jameson of St. Paul, Judge Henry Moll of St. Peter, and Mr. Thomas J. McDermott of St. Paul. The celebration produced much newspaper comment — stories of the attempt to remove the state capital to St. Peter, of the village of Traverse des Sioux, which never materialized, and of the Sioux War, as well as of the famous treaty of 1851.

An account of "The Beginnings of the Dakota Mission" by Rudolf Hertz is published in the *Word Carrier* of the Santee Normal Training School of Santee, Nebraska, for March-April, 1926. It deals chiefly with the events which brought Dr. Thomas S. Williamson and the Reverend Jedediah Stevens to the Minnesota mission field.

In "A Missionary Enterprise," by M. M. Hoffman, published in the *Palimpsest* for June, is told the story of a visit to Fort Snelling in 1839 of Bishop Mathias Loras and the Abbé Anthon Pelamourgues. Special mention is made of the baptismal records left by Bishop Loras (see *ante*, 5: 505).

Seventy-five descendants of Samuel W. and Gideon H. Pond, the missionaries who came to the upper Mississippi country in 1834, gathered at the home of Mr. A. H. Pond near Bloomington for a family reunion on September 25.

The activities of the land companies that promoted German settlement in the Minnesota Valley were depicted in one episode of an historical pageant presented at New Ulm on July 4 and 5. Among the events enacted were the founding of the town and its siege during the Sioux Outbreak of 1862.

The old Mendota ferry, which "has plied back and forth across the Minnesota, carrying ox teams, soldiers in blue and soldiers in khaki, Indians in blankets and barbaric feathers, voyageurs of the fur companies, wagons of hay, automobiles, motor trucks, sightseers, famous men and women of many lands" during nearly a century is the subject of an article, occasioned by the building of a bridge across the Minnesota at Fort Snelling, by Florence Lehmann in the *Minneapolis Journal* for August 1. The author tells of the owners of this link between Fort Snelling and Mendota,

of the ferrymen who have operated it, and of distinguished travelers who have crossed the Minnesota in it.

A recent addition to the collection of relics of pioneer days in the Sibley House at Mendota is an old stage coach originally used in the Black Hills of South Dakota. It is the gift of Mr. C. E. Wales of Minneapolis.

At the annual celebration of the siege of Fort Ridgely, held in Fort Ridgely State Park on August 20 and sponsored by the Fort Ridgely State Park and Historical Association and the Sioux Historic Trail Association, Mr. Ray P. Chase, state auditor, was the speaker. He voiced the opinion that "a state park policy that will preserve historic spots for future generations is the greatest tribute Minnesota may pay its pioneers."

The sixty-fourth anniversary of the battle of Birch Coulee was commemorated on September 2 near Morton by an historical pageant and an address by Governor Christianson on the Sioux War and this battle.

The formation of a company of guards at Hutchinson who built a stockade and adequately defended the town when it was attacked during the Sioux Outbreak of 1862 is described in the *Minneapolis Journal* for August 29.

Reminiscences of the Sioux Outbreak were stimulated by the anniversary celebrations held during the month of August. Some recollections of Mr. Michael Huss of Shakopee, who was a boy in New Ulm when that place was attacked by the Sioux in 1862, are printed in the *St. Paul Dispatch* for August 24 and the reminiscences of another survivor, Mr. John Krueger of New Ulm, appear in the *Minneapolis Journal* for August 18. The experiences of Mrs. Pernilla Ofelt of Minneapolis, who in 1862 lived on a farm near the present site of Grove City, are outlined by P. P. Quist in the *Winthrop News* for September 16. The Sioux War as recalled by a brother and sister, Mr. John Kochendorfer of South Park and Mrs. Rose Keller of St. Paul, who lost their parents and a sister in the massacre, is described in an article in the magazine section of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for August 15.

As part of the Regimental Organization Day program of the Third United States Infantry at Fort Snelling on September 21, a memorial was unveiled to Major Melville C. Wilkinson, who "was killed Oct. 5, 1898, while leading a detachment of the 3rd Infantry in the last Indian battle in the United States" at Leech Lake.

Mr. William T. Cox tells of the great flocks of passenger pigeons that passed over the Minnesota country in pioneer days in an article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for July 25. Especially does he describe the "last great rookery at Wabasha," where hundreds of these now extinct birds are said to have nested in each tree.

LOCAL HISTORY ITEMS

The most important recent development in connection with local history work in Minnesota is the establishment of the Aitkin County Historical Society. An organization meeting was held at Aitkin early in September, when a constitution was adopted and officers were elected. Though the organization is reported to be merely a tentative one, it will doubtless develop into a permanent one, for there is an active and growing interest in local history in the county. The second article in the present number of MINNESOTA HISTORY deals with the Aitkin County region and is contributed, it may be noted, by one of those who participated in the organization meeting at Aitkin.

A brief history of the Catholic church at Assumption, in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for August 8, commemorates the sixty-first anniversary of its founding.

A history of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Watson, prepared by E. I. Strom for the church's fiftieth anniversary celebration on June 27 and 28, is published in the *Milan Standard* for July 9.

A unique old Dutch windmill near Minnesota Lake, built by Gottlieb Schostag, a Dutch immigrant who settled in this region, is the subject of an article in the *Western Magazine* for April. It is accompanied by a picture of the windmill.

The story of General Israel Garrard, the founder of Frontenac, and of the large estate which he established on Lake Pepin in pioneer days is reviewed by C. A. Rasmussen in the *Red Wing Daily Republican* for September 21.

A statue of George B. Wright, who was responsible for much of the early development of Fergus Falls, was dedicated in that city on July 16.

The centennial of Faribault was celebrated on July 4, 5, and 6, by the presentation of an historical pageant which depicted the advent of Alexander Faribault in 1826, his later building of a trading post, and the subsequent growth of the city. Local and Twin City newspapers gave the celebration much publicity, and some of the accounts include valuable historical material about Faribault.

A year of notable activity for the St. Louis County Historical Society was brought to a close by meetings held at Tower on October 28 and at Duluth on November 1. The Tower meeting, attended by about four hundred people, was one of the most successful local history meetings ever held in the state. The printed program designates the day as "Vermilion Range and Lake History Day," and the subjects of the papers read carry out the promise of this designation. One of the papers, entitled *Gold Rush to the Vermilion and Rainy Lake Districts of Minnesota and Ontario in 1865 and 1894*, by Horace Johnson, has already been published as a pamphlet (Duluth, 1926. 22 p.). Among the other papers on the program were "The Discovery and Development of the Iron Ore Industry," by Elisha J. Morcom; "History and Growth of the Tourist Business on Lake Vermilion," by G. C. Carlson; "History of the Tower-Soudan Schools," by William J. Warner, Jr.; "The Lumbering Industry at Tower," by O. A. Wiseman; "History of the Municipality of Tower," by Herman T. Olson; and "The Value and Importance of Historical Work by County," by Peter Schaefer.

The Duluth meeting was opened with "Historical Reminiscences" by the presiding officer, Mr. William A. McGonagle. The central feature of the program was an address by Dr. Louise

Phelps Kellogg, senior research associate of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, on "Daniel Greysolon Sieur Du Luth." A paper on "Duluth and its Form of Government" was read by Mr. William S. McCormick, city commissioner of Duluth, and the program concluded with stereopticon views of "Early St. Louis County."

A report of the year's activities of the St. Louis County Historical Society, which has been presented by its president, Mr. William E. Culkin, to the Minnesota Historical Society, outlines a year of effective local history work. Three open meetings have been held, many valuable accessions have been made to the society's collections, the membership of the society has been brought to the very respectable total of 152, and excellent progress has been made on the society's unique system of historical book-keeping. Among the numerous accessions may be noted in particular an oil painting of Fort Snelling made in 1861 by the daughter of an officer then stationed at the fort, presented to the society by Mrs. Mary King Erwin.

The blacksmith was a person of first importance in a frontier community, according to Mr. Andrew Olson, the pioneer blacksmith of Winthrop, who established his smithy there in 1881. Some of his reminiscences are published in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for August 22.

The story of St. Mary, a deserted village of Waseca County, is outlined in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for September 12.

The "Pageant of Minnetonka," produced at Excelsior on July 29, 30, and 31, reviewed the history of the surrounding region from the days of the primitive Indians and the arrival of the first explorers to the end of the World War.

The first bridge across the Mississippi at Minneapolis is the subject of an article in the *Minneapolis Journal* for July 4, the seventy-first anniversary of the opening of the bridge to traffic. The bridge was a suspension structure and toll was charged for every pedestrian and animal crossing it. A picture of the bridge appears on another page of the same issue of the *Journal*.

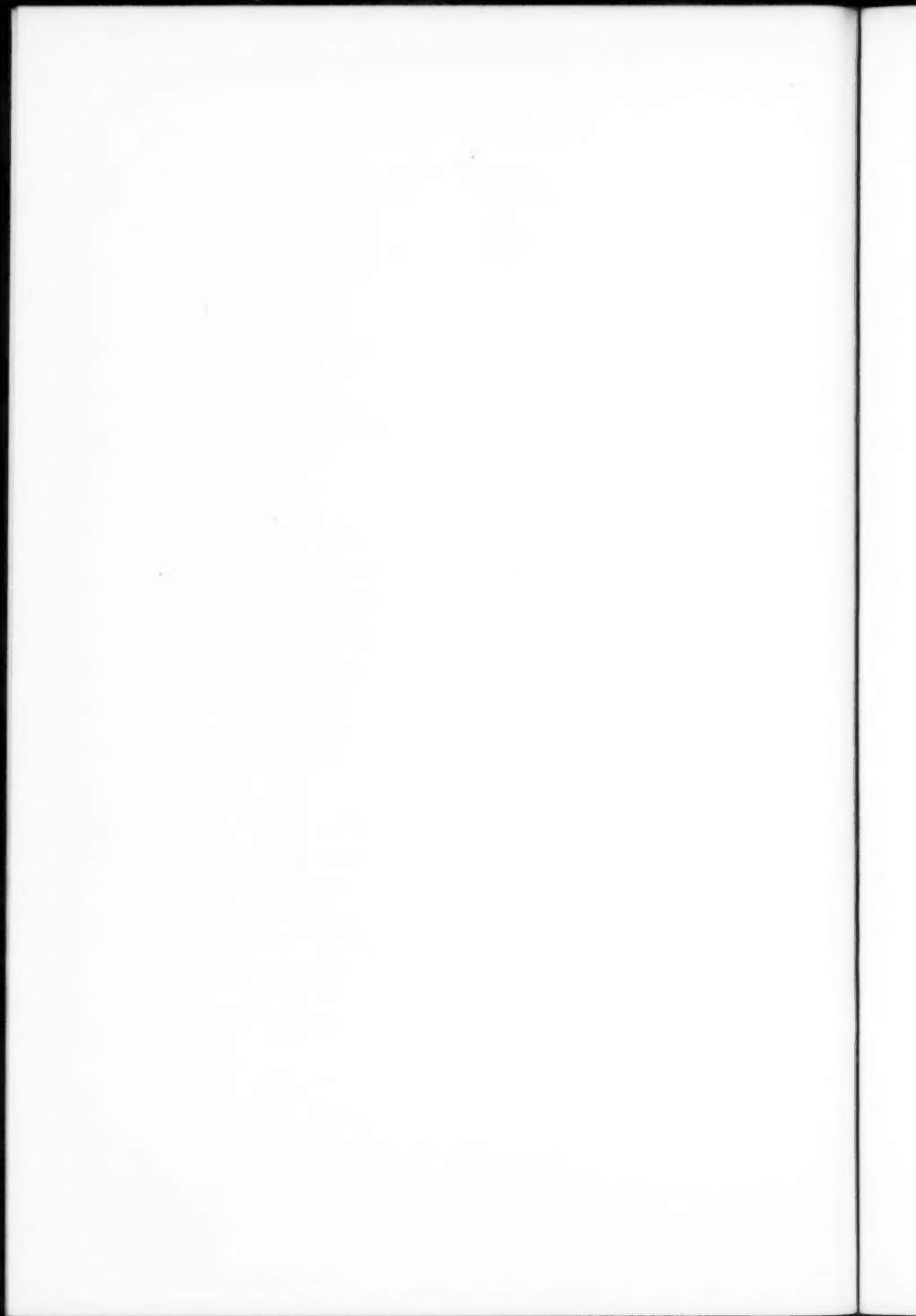
The development of the North Side district of Minneapolis is the subject of a special section of the *Minneapolis Tribune* for August 8. Joel B. Bassett and the pioneers who built their homes around his in the early fifties are credited with beginning the settlement of the district.

The opening of the Robert Street Bridge in St. Paul is the occasion for the publication in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for August 1 of an account of the building of the old bridge across the Mississippi at the same point in 1884. The issue also contains an account of various members of the Robert family, for one of whom, Louis, Robert Street is named.

The City of St. Paul: A Civic Handbook is the title of a pamphlet compiled and issued recently by the Ramsey County League of Women Voters (56 p.). It includes concise statements about city elections, officials, the various departments, finances, manufacturing, and history, and a store of miscellaneous information.

The Early Pharmacists of Saint Paul by Herman W. Rietzke is an interesting and attractive pamphlet (St. Paul, 1925. 15 p.). Some of the information about the city's pioneer druggists is drawn from newspaper advertisements, and lists of drug stores are taken from early directories. The wholesale drug business in St. Paul, especially the firm of Noyes Brothers and Cutler, also receives some attention.

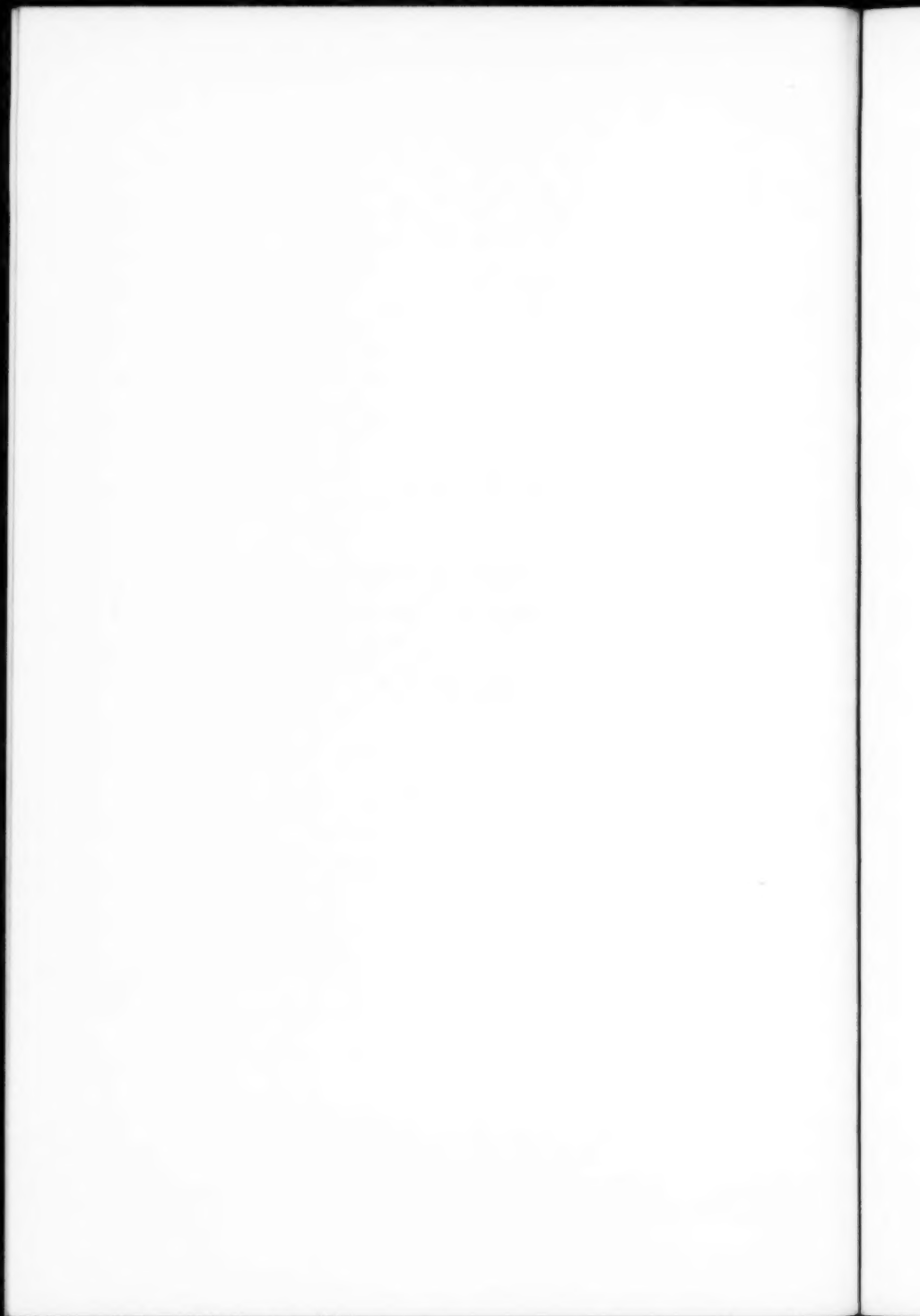
Historic sites along the projected Sibley Memorial Highway between St. Paul and Shakopee are described in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for August 1. Since the road will pass through Mendota, an account of its historic past is included; a sketch of Henry H. Sibley follows; and the article closes with comments on some of the landmarks of Shakopee. Of special interest is the story of "Murphy's Folly," a hotel built near Shakopee by Richard Murphy in 1856, when he believed that a railroad would soon pass his property.



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TO
MINNESOTA HISTORY
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ERRATA

- Page 45, line 13, for *Frederick C. Ingersoll*, read *Frederick G. Ingersoll*.
 — 94, line 31, for *William E. Boutwell*, read *William T. Boutwell*.
 — 109, line 14, for *Aitkin*, read *Aitken*.
 — 116, line 8, for *Vetal Guerin*, read *Vital Guerin*.
 — 199, line 21, for *sixteenth century*, read *seventeenth century*.

